Thursday, March 19, 2026 No 78 ₹7

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Govt plans ban on DJs, item songs at cultural events

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Assam Cong MP Pradyut Bordoloi joins BJP

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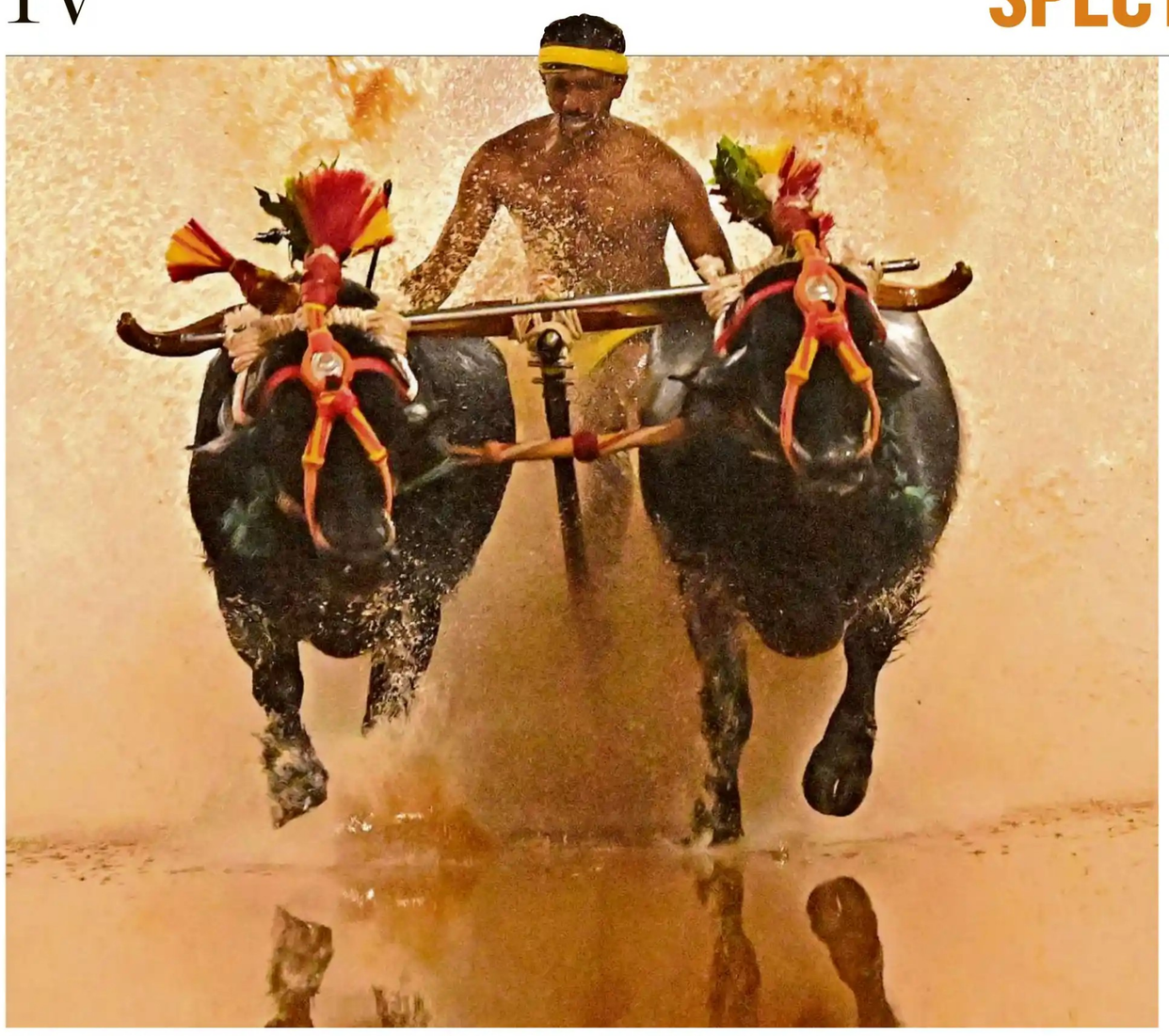

Kambala jockey Bhatkala Pandu in action with a pair of buffaloes owned by Rama Suvarna, at Veera-Vikrama Jodukare Kambala at Kodange in Bantwal taluk. DH PHOTOS/ FAKRUDDIN H

Kambala's changing stride

Naina J A traces the evolution of Kambala from a centuries-old agrarian ritual to a high-stakes spectacle

The roar of the crowd rises above the splash of slush as a pair of buffaloes, adorned with colourful headgear, race down a track. Barefoot and focused, the jockey runs behind, guiding the animals. In the spectator's gallery, every move draws cheers, a mix of anticipation and delight.

This familiar sight can be seen across Dakshina Kannada, Udupi and Kasaragod (Kerala) districts every weekend during the Kambala season. Held between November and March-April, Kambala is a test of speed, strength and coordination. Pairs of buffaloes race along 125 to 140-metre waterlogged tracks along with their jockeys. So far this year, the region has witnessed nearly 20 events with around 150 to 220 pairs of buffaloes competing in each event in multiple categories. Yet Kambala is far more than a race. Every event turns the venue into a village fair, lined with food stalls, music and cultural programmes. What began as a simple agrarian ritual centuries ago has grown into a grand sporting event today.

Farmers once organised Kambala to prepare paddy fields for sowing. The word Kambala is believed to have come from the Tulu phrase *Gampa Kala*, referring to the practice of levelling fields before cultivation. Over time, the ritual evolved into races between buffalo pairs, with modest prizes for the winners. Today, it draws thousands of spectators and has become highly competitive.

Kambala enthusiasts enjoy watching the thrilling moments of the Rama-Lakshmana Jodukare Kambala held at Bangra Kuloor in Mangaluru.

"Kambala was traditionally associated with local beliefs and devotional practices just like the *bhootharadhane* and *nagaradhane*," says Gunapala Kadamba, associated with the sport for 55 years and founder-secretary of the Zilla Kambala Samithi (Dakshina Kannada, Udupi and Kasaragod).

Preparations begin nearly 15 days in advance, during which buffalo owners and jockeys follow strict routines.

Jodukare Kambala

Traditionally, Kambala was held as a single-track race called Ontikare. A turning point came on February 3, 1970, when Dharmaraj Jain and Gunapala Jain organised the first Jodukare (double-track) Lava-Kusha Kambala at Bajegoli near Karkala. It was a ticketed event and the winners were awarded gold. The race saw buffaloes run on a 130.3 metre twin track and in four categories — Negilu (jockey holds a light wooden plough tied to a buffalo pair), Hagga (jockey holds a rope tied directly to a buffalo pair), Adda Halage (the jockey stands on a wooden plank tied to a buffalo pair) and Kane Halage (jockey stands on a circular wooden block with two water-splashing holes. The height of the splash, measured using two white cloth strips, determines the winner). Though the Bajegoli event was discontinued after 33 years, Miyar, a village near Karkala, continued hosting such races.

Among the region's Kambala events, the Aikalabava Kantabare-Budabare Jodukare Kambala stands out. Held at the same venue for nearly five decades, it recently celebrated its golden jubilee. Initiated by Narasimha Shetty, Shanubhoga Yogish Rao and others, the event was later led by Anna Master Yane Narasu Shetty until 2004 and is now being carried forward by Chitharanjan Bhandary. Over the years, the Aikala Kambala has gained a distinct identity. It features a referee stand, a modern mesh gate at the start called *ganti* and an exclusive Kambala field built privately.

According to Karnataka State Kambala Association president Aikalabava Deviprasad Shetty, the racing track at Aikala was originally created by the legendary jockey heroes Kantabare and Budabare, after whom the event is named. Two large peepal trees at the finish point, called Manjotti, offer shade to spectators.

Tradition meets technology

While rooted in tradition, Kambala has slowly embraced technology. Races were originally held only during the day but the tracks later lit at night with Petromax lamps. Floodlit Kambala was first introduced 37 years ago at the Adve Nandikoor Koti-Chennaiah Jodukare Kambala.

Time-keeping has evolved too. In the 1940s, a Kambala at Farangipete used a stopwatch to record timings. Over time, advanced systems, including laser beam sensors, were adopted to ensure precise results. In 2023, the Zilla Kambala Samithi introduced a "third umpire" system to eliminate disputes over race outcomes.

To bring discipline to the sport, the Zilla Kambala Samithi was formed in 1989. The committee framed a set of rules to regulate events and to standardise management. In 2024, fresh guidelines were introduced to ensure Kambala events conclude within 24 hours.

Training and museum

To preserve the sport and train future jockeys, Kambala enthusiasts established the Kambala Samrakshane Nirvahane Tarabethi Academy at Miyar in 2011. The academy conducts a 12-day programme to train budding jockeys in running techniques and race preparation. They also learn buffalo care including feeding, oil massage and bathing the buffaloes. "The training was suspended after the pandemic but we plan to resume it in coming September in Moodbidri," says Gunapala Kadamba.

Plans are also underway to establish a Kambala museum at Kadekar near Moodbidri, to preserve the sport's history, equipment and traditions, he adds.

In 2025, the Karnataka Department of Youth Empowerment and Sports recognised Karnataka State Kambala Association as a state sports institution authorised to organise Kambala events officially. While the association has experimented with organising Kambala in Bengaluru, there is a demand to host it in Mysuru, Shivamogga and other cities. Shetty adds that the association is also planning to have an IPL-mode sponsorship for Kambala events. "Organisers spend between Rs 30 lakh and Rs 40 lakh for one event," he says.

For buffalo owners, Kambala is more of pride and prestige. Many spend lakhs of rupees on rearing and training buffaloes. They treat these Kambala heroes as family members and give special foods that include cooked horse gram, paddy straw and jaggery, along with regular oil massages, baths and swimming sessions. Some owners have built swimming pools exclusively for their animals.

The Basaveshwara temple at Kailancha. PHOTOS BY AUTHOR

Kailancha's unmarked battlefield

Beneath the calm of a village near Ramanagara lie traces of a fierce encounter, writes Kirti Malhotra

During my many journeys from Ramanagara to nearby Sri Revana Siddeshwara Hill for trekking, the bus would always pass through a village named Kailancha. On one such journey, a co-traveller mentioned about the village having a unique *masti kallu* (Sati stone), an engraved stone erected in remembrance of a wife who burns herself on the funeral pyre of her husband. Curious, I decided to explore Kailancha and got down at the village bus stop.

After walking a short distance, I came upon a large open courtyard in front of a few small temples. The Basaveshwara temple was the most prominent, with a Nandi at the entrance. On one side of the courtyard stood two large, gaudily painted platforms made of heavy stone slabs. Some of these slabs bore interesting carvings. What instantly caught my attention, however, was a tall Sati stone next to one of the platforms. It too had been painted heavily, masking its intricate details. Yet, the large hand symbol of Sati stood out. The raised right hand was adorned with bangles, blessing the world as she (Sati) immolated herself on her husband's funeral pyre.

The tall Sati stone at Kailancha.

I then examined the platforms more closely. Could these have been the sites of the funeral pyres where Sati was performed? I enquired locally, but no one could offer an explanation.

At another end of the courtyard, closer to the Basaveshwara temple, I noticed several worn-out stones of varying sizes and shapes embedded deep in the ground. Though eroded, they bore faint carvings. On one of them, the Linga and Nandi were clearly visible at the top while the lower portion revealed the head of a hero and a horse. These were clearly herostones.

On my way back, I wondered whether Kailancha derived its name from the Sati stone with its striking hand symbol. *Kai* means hand in Kannada and *lancha* may be a shortened form of *lanchana* meaning symbol or emblem.

A search through archival material confirmed that Kailancha had once been a battlefield. The *Annual Report of the Mysore Archaeological Department for 1941-42* (ARM) briefly mentions the 'Battle of Kailancha' fought between the forces of Dalvoy Devaraje Arasu (Devarajayya) of Seringapatam (Srirangapatna) and seven Sardars, the first of whom was Kasim Khan.

The *Historical Sketches of the South Indian History Vol 1 (HSSI)* written by Colonel Mark Wilks in 1810 records vivid details of the battle fought in the year 1737. The Nawab of Arcot, Dost Ali Khan, ruled over much of southern India, except Mysore. The riches of the Seringapatam treasury continued to attract his attention. He assembled a 'well appointed army' under Kasim Khan and Murad Khan, 'who marched with confidence of certain victory' and camped at the extensive field of 'Keilenchee' (Kailancha) in December 1736.

On hearing this, Dalvoy Devarajayya set about 'making grand preparations for the defence of Seringapatam'. In January 1737, Devarajayya 'marched out at the head of a well-equipped army'. As per the archaeological report, Dalvoy met the invading forces near Kailancha and posed a fierce fight. The 'Khans were suddenly attacked' and 'were slain'. It adds that Devarajayya returned in triumph to Srirangapatna with 'all their treasure, elephants and horses'.

C Hayavadana Rao, in *History of Mysore, Vol 2 (1946)*, points to another cause for the war, noting that Mysore had long been a thorn in the side of the Nawab. During 1735-36, the Mysore army was active in Malabar and the south, and was even engaged with the kingdom of Madura (Madurai).

Lewis Rice, in *Mysore and Coorg: A Gazetteer Vol 1 (1877)*, states that the Navabs (Nawabs) of Arcot eyed with jealousy the rights of the Navabs of Sira to receive tribute (payment given by a ruler to a more powerful ones to secure peace) from the wealthy State of Mysore.

Standing there, I could imagine the 'extensive field of Kailancha' where this bloody battle once took place.

The riches of the Mysore kingdom had attracted not only the Nawabs but also the Nayaks of Madurai, leading to a series of conflicts through the 17th and early 18th centuries. Today, Kailancha is a quiet village, its eventful past largely forgotten.

FEEDBACK
Send your ideas and comments to:
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Yugadi: When nature colours the landscape in vibrant hues

Across Karnataka, while people celebrate Yugadi with rituals, food and decorations, nature ushers in the season with blossoms and new shoots, writes Surendra Pai

Yugadi marks the beginning of the new year for many communities across the state. As people prepare to celebrate the festival, nature echoes the occasion in its own way, with trees sprouting fresh leaves, seasonal blooms emerging, and the landscape turning green after winter, attracting bees, birds and insects.

While this period marks the seasonal transition, it also holds cultural significance and plays a vital role in the local ecosystem, linking tradition with nature.

Around this time, parts of southern Karnataka, especially Yelandur and Biligirirangana Hills are adorned with plumeria. Popularly known as *gosampige*, *devakanagile* and *pagoda* locally, these flowers appear in shades of white, yellow, purple, orange and pink. Though the flowers do not produce nectar, they have scents and visual clues that dupe its pollinators.

Small, fragrant neem blossoms also appear around Yugadi. Traditionally used in the neem-jaggery mixture consumed during the festival, these flowers are used as condiments and for food flavouring. The extracts of these flowers are also used in aromatherapy and in the cosmetic industry.

The *honge* tree or the *Pongamia pinnata*, one of the widely found trees in Bengaluru and other parts of the state, also blooms during March-April. Clusters of fragrant pink, white or mauve flowers, resembling strings of jasmine, line roadsides and attract pollinators, particularly bees. The flowers of this tree, commonly associated with Yugadi, are immortalised in the poem "*Yuga Yugadi Kaledaru*" by Da Ra Bendre.

A golden shower tree in full bloom in Mangaluru; Children play under a blooming row of pink tabebuia trees in Bengaluru; Clusters of flowers adorning a Honge tree in Hosadurga. PHOTOS BY FAKRUDDIN H, PUSHKAR V AND SURENDRA PAI

The flame of the forest stands out as another symbol of the season. Found across the Western Ghats and in urban spaces, it draws attention with its bright crimson-orange flowers. Traditionally, the leaves of this tree were used to make plates while in recent years, the flowers are also used to make organic colours for Holi.

Culturally significant

The golden shower tree (*Cassia fistula)*, locally known as *kakke*, is celebrated for its vibrant yellow flowers. Found along roadsides in Bengaluru, Mangaluru and other places, these trees hold cultural significance in Dakshina Kannada and Kerala, and their blossoms form an integral part of the Souramana Yugadi celebrations. They are used for decorating temples and hung at house entrances.

In parts of Mysuru and Bengaluru, *akasha mallige* or Indian cork tree blooms in summer, until the onset of monsoon, and again during November and December. Their white tubular flowers bloom at night and fall by morning, covering the ground beneath like a white carpet.

Bengaluru also sees a transformation during Yugadi, thanks to the pink trumpet tree (*Tabebuia rosea*), native to Mexico and South America. These trees shed their leaves before flowering, leaving only clusters of trumpet-shaped pink blossoms, turning the city into a pink paradise. A related species, T*abebuia argentea*, or golden trumpet, produces yellow flowers and is also seen in the city.

For many, Yugadi is a festival of rituals, food and new beginnings. But amidst the noise and bustle of the urban life, they hardly notice the beautiful transformation of nature. Yet, from fresh greenery to blossoming flowers, the season and the festival together embody a seamless cycle of renewal.

(Translated from Kannada by Divyashri Mudakavi)

DH
DECCAN HERALD
The Power of Good

SC raps Mamata for interrupting ED raids

Says 'not a happy situation' on Bengal CM's actions in I-PAC case

Page 12

Israel says Iran intelligence minister Khatib killed

Supreme Leader warns death will be avenged

JERUSALEM, AFP

Israel killed another top Iranian official, intelligence minister Esmail Khatib, and declared on Wednesday that its military is authorised to kill any senior Islamic republic figure it gets in its sights.

Iran's president Masoud Pezeshkian branded Khatib's death a "cowardly assassination" while its Supreme Leader Mojtaba Khamenei warned that "criminals have to pay soon for his blood".

News of Khatib's death came the day after Iranian security chief Ali Larijani was confirmed killed in an Israeli strike.

"Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and I have authorised the IDF to eliminate any senior Iranian official for whom the intelligence and operational circle has been closed, without the need for additional approval," Israel's Defence Minister Israel Katz announced

"We will continue to thwart them and to hunt them all down."

▸ Iran, Page 6

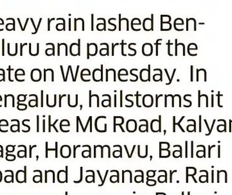
Smoke rises from a Lebanese village after an Israeli strike. REUTERS

Modi speaks to Kuwait leader

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday exchanged views on the evolving situation in West Asia with Crown Prince of Kuwait Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah and said that ensuring safe and free navigation through the Strait of Hormuz remains the foremost priority.

Details on Page 13

DH wishes its readers a **Happy Ugadi**



Our offices will be closed today and there will be no edition on Friday.

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State to revamp hiring, plans yearly recruitment

Proposes House panel to tame scam-hit KPSC

BENGALURU, DHNS

The Siddaramaiah administration on Wednesday announced annual recruitment with timelines, a five-year hiring plan and a House committee among other measures to rein in the scam-hit Karnataka Public Service Commission (KPSC).

These interventions were announced in the Assembly where the government replied to the debate on irregularities at the KPSC, the Constitutional body that Revenue Minister Krishna Byre Gowda said has become "a disappointment for all of us".

Gowda was picked by Chief Minister Siddaramaiah to lay out what the government plans to do to improve recruitment through KPSC.

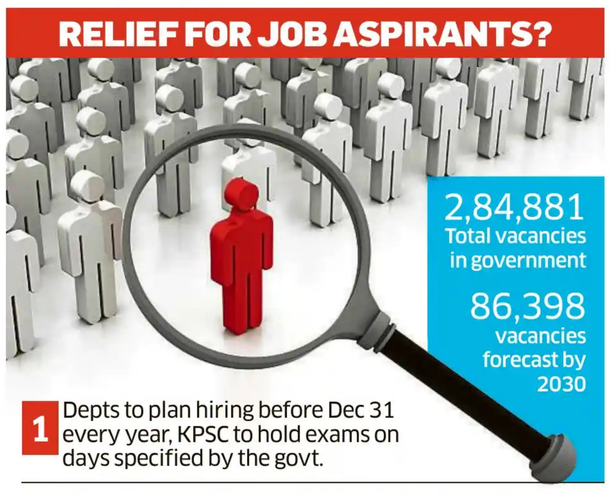
"Going forward, there must be annual recruitment. The departments concerned will decide how many posts should be filled up. We will give a deadline. For example, before December 31, all departments must tell KPSC how many posts need recruitment in the following calendar year," Gowda said.

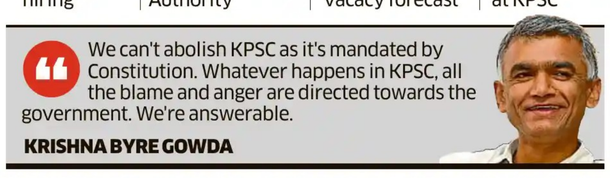
"Every year, there will be clarity on the specific month, week and day when the KPSC should compulsorily hold an exam," Gowda said, adding that this UPSC-like recruitment calendar will reduce pressure on job aspirants and minimise litigation. "If there is litigation in one year, the next year's recruitment will go on as scheduled. Right now, one year's litigation has a cascading effect," he said.

The government has also decided to prepare a recruitment plan for the next five years. "We have data to forecast how many vacancies will arise in the coming years. Based on that, the finance department has in-principle agreed to prepare a five-year recruitment calendar," Gowda said.

For Group 'C' posts, the government will prescribe a timeline. "KPSC will be directed to complete the process as per that timeline," Gowda said. "Group 'C' recruitment doesn't have an interview; only exam, roster and merit. There shouldn't be delays in this."

▸ KPSC, Page 4


RELIEF FOR JOB ASPIRANTS?
2,84,881
Total vacancies in government
86,398
vacancies forecast by 2030
1 Depts to plan hiring before Dec 31 every year, KPSC to hold exams on days specified by the govt.
2 Govt to fix timelines for Group 'C' hiring
3 KPSC to adopt 'best practices' from Karnataka Examinations Authority
4 Govt to prepare a 5-year recruitment calendar based on vacancy forecast
5 House committee to suggest reforms at KPSC


We can't abolish KPSC as it's mandated by Constitution. Whatever happens in KPSC, all the blame and anger are directed towards the government. We're answerable.
KRISHNA BYRE GOWDA

Quickly

Fires in Delhi, Indore kill 17

Fires in Delhi and Indore on Wednesday killed 17 people. In Delhi, nine members of a family, including three children and a 70-year-old woman, were killed after a massive fire tore through a multi-storey residential-cum-commercial building. In Indore, eight members of a family were killed after a fire broke out at a businessman's house following an explosion at an EV charging point.

Details on Page 13

Heavy rain lashes B'luru, parts of state

Heavy rain lashed Bengaluru and parts of the state on Wednesday. In Bengaluru, hailstorms hit areas like MG Road, Kalyan Nagar, Horamavu, Ballari Road and Jayanagar. Rain damaged crops in Ballari and Chikkaballapur districts on Wednesday. P 2

Rs 33k-cr industrial cluster plan gets okay

GYANENDRA KESHRI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The Union Cabinet on Wednesday approved Bharat Audyogik Vikas Yojana (BHAVYA), with an outlay of Rs 33,660 crore, to develop 100 industrial clusters across the country to boost manufacturing.

The new industrial clusters, each spanning from 100 to 1,000 acres of land, will offer ready infrastructure to investors and businesses, Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw told reporters. For the Northeast and hilly regions, the minimum land requirement has been kept at 25 acre.

Under the scheme, the Union government will provide financial support of up to Rs 1 crore per acre for development of core and value-added infrastructure like roads, underground utilities, drainage, common treatment facilities, ICT, administrative systems, ready-built factory sheds, built-to-suit units, testing labs and warehousing. The financial support will also be provided for the development of social infrastructure like worker housing and support amenities.

Vaishnaw said the plug-and-play industrial parks will be developed across the country in collaboration with state governments, public sector undertakings and private firms.

▸ Industrial, Page 6

By enabling cluster-based development, BHAVYA will strengthen supply chains, reduce costs and foster industrial ecosystems.

PIYUSH GOYAL
Commerce and Industry Minister

Berlin opens office in Bengaluru

BENGALURU, DHNS: After New York and Beijing, German capital Berlin opened its third international office in Bengaluru on Wednesday. The office will focus on, and support startups, innovation, education, exports and imports. We want our presence here continuously, and this office will facilitate talent migration and help companies that want to invest in India, Mayor of Berlin and Senator Franziska Giffey said.

Details on Page 16

Airlines mandated to allocate 60% seats without extra fee

NEW DELHI, DHNS: The Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA) has directed all airlines to ensure that at least 60% of seats on every flight are allocated free of charge.

The ministry's directions, aimed at further strengthening passenger convenience, transparency and uniformity of practices across airlines, have been conveyed to the airlines through the Directorate General of Civil Aviation, an official statement said on Wednesday.

With airlines charging extra for choosing seats and other facilities, the new guidelines mandate that at least 60% of seats must be allocated free of charge. Passengers travelling on the same PNR must be seated together, it said.

The new guidelines also mandate carriage of sports equipment and musical instruments in a "transparent and passenger-friendly manner," subject to safety regulations. Airlines should also bring out clear, transparent policies for the carriage of pets, the guidelines say.

▸ 60% flight seats, Page 4

Centre has assured support for B'luru 2nd airport: DKS

NEW DELHI, DHNS: Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar on Wednesday said that Union Civil Aviation Minister Kinjarapu Ram Mohan Naidu has assured him that once it receives the feasibility report from the state, the Centre will grant all required permissions for the second airport in Bengaluru.

Shivakumar, who met Naidu in New Delhi and discussed various issues related to the proposed second airport, said the Airports Authority of India (AAI) has already examined the three sites proposed by the state government and submitted its observations on each of them.

The state government has invited bids to select a consultancy firm to conduct a detailed feasibility study of each site, taking into account financial viability and expected passenger load. The tender process is in its final stage.

▸ 2nd airport, Page 4

HASSAN SEX SCANDAL

Chargesheet lays bare plan behind video leak

PRAJWAL D'SOUZA
BENGALURU, DHNS

A fresh chargesheet filed by the Karnataka police's Special Investigation Team (SIT) revealed a web of deceit, conspiracy, political rivalry and an elaborate plot behind leaking obscene videos linked to former JD(S) MP Prajwal Revanna right before the 2024 Lok Sabha elections that led to his conviction and life imprisonment.

Chargesheet accessed by *DH* revealed that Karthik

Prajwal Revanna

N (33) — Prajwal's former driver and a key accused in the chargesheet — exploited his proximity to the former MP, stealthily memorised the PIN, and when left alone in one instance with the mobile phone, transferred the private, obscene videos to his mobile phone and then to a hard drive.

To cover his tracks, Karthik filed a false police case in August 2021, claiming that his phones were lost.

The SIT submitted a 13,712-page chargesheet to a court in Hassan last month, naming 39 people as the accused after inquiry. The probe team also examined 277 witnesses, along with forensic analysis of pen drives and gathered other pieces of technical evidence. "Since Prajwal Revanna is already convicted in a case, he has been left out from this chargesheet," a source told *DH*.

In August 2022, there was a fallout between Karthik and Prajwal's family over a 13.25-acre land parcel in Hassan's Holenarasipura. Subsequently, Karthik was forced to surrender the land and was fired from his job.

Driven by vengeance, he allied with Devarajegowda G (49), the eight accused.

▸ Prajwal Revanna, Page 4

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Bengaluru experiences refreshing summer rains, with people hurrying under umbrellas along wet, glistening streets on Wednesday. DH PHOTO/PUSHKAR V

Second straight evening of rain; hailstorm disrupts traffic

BENGALURU, DHNS

Heavy rain lashed large swathes of Bengaluru for the second consecutive evening on Wednesday, with areas such as MG Road, Kalyan Nagar, Horamavu, Ballari Road, Jayanagar, Banashankari, Majestic, Shantinagar, and Koramangala witnessing a hailstorm.

Accompanied by thunderstorms and lightning, the late-evening rain caused waterlogging and slowed traffic to a crawl, leaving motorists heading home after work frustrated.

Key stretches affected included Old Madras Road, Pai Layout, Mahadevapura, Allalasandra Main Road, Chokkasandra flyover, Bilekahalli–Arekere Road, Kogilu Road, Binny Mill Road, and Hunasemara Junction Road.

According to data from the Varunamitra dashboard by the Karnataka State Natural Disaster Monitoring Centre (KSNDMC), as of 9.30 pm on Wednesday, Yelahanka recorded the highest rainfall at 28.5 mm, followed by Bommanahalli at 18.5 mm and Bengaluru South at 12 mm.

Heavy rainfall was reported in northern parts of the city, including Jakkur (2.5 cm), Chowdeshwari (2.4 cm), Byatarayanapura (2.1 cm), and Vidyaranyapura (1.9 cm). In South Bengaluru, areas such as Arekere (1.85 cm) also recorded significant rainfall.

Thundershowers today

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has predicted more thundershowers on Thursday.

ROAD RAGE

Foreigner intervenes as driver assaults biker

Argument over wrong-side driving spirals into violence

BENGALURU, DHNS

A shocking case of road rage has emerged from Bengaluru's GKVK service road, where a heated argument between two motorists spiralled into violence, with a foreign woman stepping in to halt the assault.

The incident, which reportedly unfolded in full public view — even in the presence of police personnel and a home guard — went viral on social media on Wednesday.

According to a senior officer from the Yelahanka police, local police, including traffic personnel, were initially unaware of the incident.

"We came to know about it only after the video surfaced on social media. No personnel present at the spot alerted us," the officer said.

The video shows the foreigner stepping in to halt the violent road-rage clash on the GKVK service road.

Following the video going viral on Wednesday evening, police registered a suo motu case and initiated action against those involved in the incident.

Preliminary information suggests that a verbal argument over wrong-side driving quickly escalated into a physical altercation.

Eyewitnesses said the situation turned violent within minutes, with both individuals exchanging blows.

The car driver allegedly turned aggressive, attacking the biker even as onlookers attempted to intervene.

In a dramatic moment, a foreign woman witnessing the incident reportedly shouted at the men, forcing them to stop and briefly defusing the situation.

An autorickshaw driver who had initially tried to pacify the duo was also drawn into the scuffle, further escalating tensions and creating chaos on the busy stretch.

The clash reportedly continued for several minutes before it was finally brought under control.

Working mothers cheer SC ruling on adoption benefits

Say move will strengthen early parent-child bonding

AMULLYA SHIVASHANKAR
BENGALURU, DHNS

Mothers in the city have welcomed the Supreme Court verdict quashing the provision denying maternity benefits to adoptive mothers of children over three months.

Delivering the verdict in the Hamsaanandini Nanduri Vs Union of India on March 17, 2026, the Apex Court said motherhood is not merely a biological function, but a deeply personal and emotional experience, and that maternity leave should be granted irrespective of the child's age.

Working mothers in the city, especially those who have adopted children, welcomed the move. They said extending maternity leave to adoptive parents will help strengthen the emotional bond between the child and the parent.

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Adoption process

Malathi Mohan, Welfare Officer at Mathru Chaya Trust, said, "Adoption before three months is ideally not possible. Even if a mother places her baby for adoption immediately after birth, the baby must be kept for 60 days to allow time for the mother to change her mind. After this period, the Child Welfare Committee is informed, and only then can the child be placed for adoption."

Speaking to *DH*, Poornima Dhalla, an IT employee who adopted a four-month-old baby 20 years ago, said, "I was working in a big IT company when I decided to adopt. I was not given maternity leave. I went on Loss of Pay (LoP) for more than three months, but I made sure the company's policy adapted the changes and offered leave to adoptive mothers."

"There is extraordinarily little chance that you can adopt a three-month-old baby. As the parents grow older, the older are the children we get. Any law and benefits applicable to biological parents should be available to adoptive parents as well," she further said.

Another parent who adopted a six-month-old baby, requesting anonymity, said, "When I adopted the baby, I was not given maternity leave. I went on loss of pay for three months. But I felt it was not enough and so, I decided to quit my job."

Prof Dr N Karthik Nagesh, senior paediatrician at a private hospital, said, "Continuous parental presence in the initial months after adoption is especially important because it helps the child feel safe, secure, and loved. Many adopted children may feel confused or anxious due to the sudden change in environment, so staying close helps build trust. Bonding time is important for children adopted at older ages (two to six years) as it is for infants because they may have stronger memories from the past."

2,317 booked for ticketless travel in BMTC buses

BENGALURU, DHNS: The checking staff of the Bangalore Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC) intensified inspections on buses operating in and around Bengaluru to detect ticketless travel.

In February this year, the staff checked 16,397 trips and penalised 2,317 passengers for travelling without tickets, collecting Rs 5,08,910 in fines. Additionally, 1,445 cases were booked against conductors for dereliction of duty.

The checking staff also penalised 229 male passengers for occupying seats reserved exclusively for women, collecting Rs 22,900 in fines in accordance with KMV Rules 94 read with Section 177 of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988.

In total, during February, 2,546 passengers were penalised and Rs 6,09,850 was collected as fines.

Kannur Express extended to Kozhikode

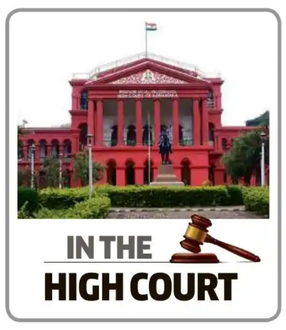
BENGALURU, DHNS: The railways has extended the KSR Bengaluru-Kannur-KSR Bengaluru Express (16511/16512) up to Kozhikode.

Train number 16511 will arrive/depart at Kannur at 10.55 am/11 am, Thalassery at 11.20 am/11.21 am, Vadakara at 11.41 am/11.42 am, Quilandi at 11.58/11.59 am and reach Kozhikode at 12.40 pm.

Train number 16512 will depart from Kozhikode at 3.30 pm, arrive/depart at Quilandi at 3.52/3.53 pm, Vadakara at 4.12/4.13 pm, Thalassery at 4.34/4.35 pm and Kannur at 5/5.05 pm.

High Court grants bail to woman arrested for raising 'Jai Bangla' slogan

BENGALURU, DHNS: A West Bengal woman, arrested for yelling 'Jai Bangla' when asked to say 'Bharat Mata Ki Jai', has been granted bail by the Karnataka High Court.



The Hebbagodi police arrested Sarbanu Khatun, a housemaid, in January under BNS sections 152, 196, 197(1), and 353(1).

On January 11, a special drive was taken up to detain suspected Bangladeshi nationals residing in sheds and slums allegedly on government land in Hulimangala within the Hebbagodi police limits.

The complaint, filed by a police officer from the Hebbagodi police station, was based on a video circulating on social media.

In the video, a person recording the eviction drive stopped the petitioner and asked her to raise the slogan 'Bharat Mata Ki Jai'.

The petitioner, Sarbanu Khatun, submitted that she had no intention to hurt the sentiments of Indians and that she was provoked to shout the slogan 'Bharat Mata Ki Jai'.

It was also submitted that after shouting 'Jai Bangla', she walked a few steps and shouted 'Bharat Mata Ki Jai' thrice.

The state submitted that the petitioner, being an Indian, had hurt the sentiments of Indians by raising the slogan 'Jai Bangla'.

After perusing the material, Justice S Rachaiah noted that a person had instigated the petitioner to raise the slogan.

"However, she called out 'Jai Bangla' and thereafter, again, she shouted the slogan 'Bharat Mata Ki Jai' thrice. Having considered the facts and circumstances of the case and the fact that she has two minor children and she has to take care of them, it is appropriate to grant her bail by imposing suitable conditions that would take care of the apprehension of the prosecution," the court said.

The court ordered her release on bail subject to executing a personal bond of Rs 1 lakh and appearing before the trial court on all dates.

Musical drama

BENGALURU, DHNS: Sri Rama Lalitha Kala Mandira will present Sangeetha Mummoorthigal, a musical and dramatic representation of the lives of the musical trinity — Shyama Shastri, Thyagaraja and Muthuswami Dikshitar — by 'TV' Varadharajen and team.

It will be held at 5.30 pm on Saturday at Bangalore Gayana Samaja, KR Road.

Sewage, waste dumping hamper Koramangala valley revamp

BENGALURU, DHNS

A review of the Citizens' Waterway Project along Koramangala valley has revealed persistent issues, including sewage inflow, industrial effluents, waste dumping, and encroachments along the drain.

These concerns were flagged during a recent meeting attended by officials from the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) and Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB).

On Tuesday, Bengaluru Central City Corporation Commissioner Rajendra Cholan and his team inspected the valley to address some of these issues.

A key concern was untreated waste entering the stormwater drain from smaller drains, with BWSSB teams tasked to identify and address the sources. Vegetable waste from KR Market was observed mixing with stormwater at one location.

Industrial pollution also emerged as a major problem. Effluents from a slaughterhouse were found entering the drain near a bridge, while dye contamination was detected at another outlet. Authorities have been directed to trace the pollutants' origin and ensure safe disposal.

Officials noted encroachments between multiple chainages and near JC Road, instructing BBMP engineers to clear debris and remove illegal structures, including those on expired lease lands. Waste dumping was widespread along the stretch, with garbage observed at multiple locations.

The meeting also highlighted infrastructure issues, including a leaking underground pipeline near Victoria Hospital. The BWSSB has been asked to undertake road-cutting for repairs after obtaining the necessary permissions.

South Corp collaborates with NGO on animal waste management plan

BENGALURU, DHNS: Bengaluru South City Corporation has partnered with not-for-profit organisation Vedan Trust to develop a scientific roadmap for systematic animal waste management within its jurisdiction.

The collaboration aims to address unscientific waste disposal by meat vendors and establish a well-equipped, hygienic collection system.

As part of the initiative, the NGO surveyed meat and animal product outlets to identify waste generation points, designed an auto-to-collection system, and established a clear framework for meat vendors, including specific timings and designated transfer points for safe waste handover.

"We are not just collecting waste; we are building a sustainable sanitation model based on data," said a representative from Vedan.

The commissioner also met with AdMyBins, which has reduced black spots in major cities of West Bengal by installing litter bins. The corporation is considering a similar strategy along key roads in its area.

Ugadi spl trains from Bengaluru to Belagavi, Hubballi & more

BENGALURU, DHNS: The South Western Railway (SWR) will operate the following special trains connecting Bengaluru to Belagavi, Hubballi, Vijayapura, Hosapete and Madgao to clear the extra rush of passengers during Ugadi:

Train number 06503 will depart from SMVT Bengaluru at 7 pm on March 18 and reach Belagavi at 7.35 am the next day. Train number 06504 will depart from Belagavi at 5.30 pm on March 22 and arrive at SVMT Bengaluru at 5 am.

The train will stop at Chikbanavar, Tumakuru, Arsikere, Birur, Davangere, Harihar, Haveri, Hubballi, Dharwad, Alnavar, Londa and Khanapur.

Train number 06277 will depart from Yeshwantpur at 9.50 pm on March 18 and reach Vijayapura at 9.45 am the next day. Train number 06278 will depart from Vijayapura at 1.30 pm on March 22 and arrive at Yeshwantpur at 12.30 am the next day.

The train will halt at Tumakuru, Arsikere, Birur, Davangere, Harihar, Ranibennur, Haveri, Badami, Bagalkot and Almatti.

Train number 07379 will depart from Hubballi at noon on March 18 and arrive at Yeshwantpur at 8.15 pm the same day, with stoppages at Haveri, Harihar, Davangere, Arsikere and Tumakuru.

Train number 06267 will depart from Yeshwantpur at noon on March 18 and reach Madgaon at 6.45 am the next day.

It will stop at Kunigal, Channarayapatna, Hassan, Saklespur, Subrahmanya Road, Kabakaputtur, Bantawala, Surathkal, Mulki, Udupi, Barkur, Kundapura, Byndoor, Bhatkal, Murdeshwar, Honnavar, Kumta, Gokarna Road, Ankola and Karwar.

In the return direction, train number 06268 will depart from Madgaon at 11 am on March 19 and arrive at Bengaluru Cantonment at 5.20 am the next day. This train will have an additional stop at SMVT Bengaluru.

Train number 06533 will depart from Yeshwantpur on March 18 at 6.15 pm and reach Hosapete at 4 pm the following day. Train number 06534 will depart from Hosapete on March 19 at 9 am and arrive at Yeshwantpur at 7.20 pm the same day.

The train will halt at Tumakuru, Arsikere, Kadur, Chikjajur, Chitradurga, Rayadurg, Ballari Cantonment and Toranagallu.

Kannada Jain lit podcast

BENGALURU, DHNS: Prof Hampa Nagarajaiah will launch 'Nichham Posathu (Ever New)', a video podcast series on Kannada Jain literature featuring his lectures, on Thursday at 5.30 pm at the Institute of World Culture.

Literary critics Ashadevi and Manu N Chakravarthy, and poet HN Arathi will speak at the event. Designed and directed by Chandan Gowda, this series from Kathana Studio includes lectures on Kannada Jain poets and their works.

Father-son duo held for Rs 80-lakh computer shop theft; wore burqas to conceal identity

BENGALURU, DHNS: Govindapura police have arrested a father-son duo for allegedly committing theft at a computer shop in HBR Layout.

The accused, 21-year-old Hemanth M and his 45-year-old father Manjunath, wore burqas during the theft to conceal their identity and avoid detection on CCTV cameras, police said.

Police recovered 444 RAM units, 279 laptop SSDs, and Rs 2.29 lakh in cash from the accused, together estimated at Rs 80 lakh.

Hemanth is a laptop technician, while Manjunath runs a provision store. Both are residents of Nagawara.

A senior police officer said the accused were nabbed within two days of the theft being reported.

Hemanth had worked at the shop for about six months and was familiar with the inventory. Following a dispute with the owner over salary, he quit and allegedly planned the theft.

On March 13, the duo broke open the shop shutter and took away high-value components, including RAM and SSD storage devices.

Based on a complaint, Govindapura police traced the accused using CCTV footage and local leads.

During interrogation, Manjunath confessed that he had helped his son obtain a duplicate key for the shop and provided assistance during the escape, police added.

Tax dues pile up to Rs 530 cr across 1,013 properties

BENGALURU, DHNS: Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) has identified 1,013 defaulters with property tax dues amounting to Rs 530 crore. The properties have been classified as habitual offenders.

GBA Special Commissioner (Revenue) Munish Moudgil said all five municipal corporations are monitoring property tax arrears and pending revision cases as the financial year draws to a close.

"The joint commissioners of the respective municipal corporations have been instructed to collect the arrears at the earliest," he said.

Online access

Moudgil added that a list of 50 major arrears and an equal number of revision cases in the respective municipal corporations have been uploaded on the GBA website at https://gba.karnataka.gov.in.

The press notes urged property owners with pending arrears to clear dues immediately and avoid further legal action.

EMPTY CARTS

War, weak footfall hit festive sales in city

BENGALURU, DHNS

Popular shopping hubs in the city are reporting a dip in sales ahead of the festive weekend due to low footfall and supply shortages.

Ahead of Ugadi and Ramzan on Thursday and Saturday, respectively, retail stores across the city reported "disappointing footfall" this week.

No NRI crowd

"Usually, we have a heavy influx of NRI crowd during Ramzan and even Ugadi. But with the ongoing war, the NRI crowd has dipped, and in turn, there has been a dip of at least 25% in our sales. From festive clothing and accessories to electronics and lingerie, this has impacted all stores," said Mayank Rohatgi, secretary, Bangalore Commercial Association.

Shoppers pick mavu and bevu on the eve of Ugadi at Malleswaram, on Wednesday. DH PHOTO/BK JANARDHAN

Gold and silver stores reported a similar trend. "People are concerned that the gold and silver market will crash, so those who want to invest are wary, and those who want to buy are awaiting a fall in the market," an owner of a jewellery store in Malleswaram said.

Supply chain disruption

A shortfall in supply is also affecting operations, store owners said.

"Supply in some sectors, such as electronics, for example, has been majorly impacted. Take something as common as a PlayStation 5, which is in great demand, but we have no stock," said Suhail Yusuf, secretary, Brigade Road Shops and Establishments Association. He added that if the conflict in West Asia continues, supply of other goods in the city is also likely to be affected.

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Two arrested for importing narcotic substances through Foreign Post Office

2.865 kg of hydro ganja, 108 grams of MDMA crystals, 2 gm of cocaine seized

BENGALURU, DHNS

Bengaluru police's Central Crime Branch (CCB) has arrested two people — Vinay and Suhail from Adugodi — who were smuggling drugs through the city's Foreign Post Office.

A police statement said that during a special operation last week at Chamarajpet's Foreign Post Office, conducted based on information gathered by officers and staff of the CCB's Narcotics Control Wing, police inspected suspicious parcels received from abroad. This led to the seizure of 2.865 kg of hydro ganja, 108 grams of MDMA crystals, and 2 grams of cocaine.

"Based on a complaint registered in this regard, a case was booked at the KG Nagar police station under the NDPS Act, and legal action was initiated against the accused," the statement further added.

"To trace the accused involved in this case, a team of officers and staff from the Narcotics Control Wing carried out further operations and successfully arrested two accused persons in Adugodi, Bengaluru," police said.

The arrested persons were importing banned narcotic substances from Thailand and other countries by using different names and addresses through postal services. "Efforts are on to trace the remaining accused," police said.

Separately, the CCB has also detained three foreigners — a Nigerian, Tanzanian, and another from Ivory Coast — for overstaying their visa, and handed them over to the Hulimavu police station for further action.

Officials also said 272 Bangladeshi nationals illegally staying in the city have been detained and the Foreigners Regional Registration Office (FRRO) has begun their deportation proceedings.

Stock trading addict uses wife's name to raise loans, leaves her in debt of Rs 93 lakh

BENGALURU, DHNS: A 41-year-old man, allegedly addicted to stock trading, is accused of marrying a woman for financial gain. He systematically drained her money.

A cheating complaint of Rs 93 lakh has been filed in Sadashivanagar.

He is said to have taken control of her mobile phone, downloaded loan applications in her name, and availed funds without her knowledge, the police said.

The accused Shabarish Kumar C, a resident of Jakkur, trapped the woman in debt soon after the marriage.

A senior police officer said in her complaint, the 37-year-old victim alleged Kumar forced her to take multiple loans from banks and private lenders, pushing her into severe financial distress. He allegedly pressured her friends, colleagues, relatives, and neighbours to arrange money, widening the financial exploitation.

The police officer said the complainant is a resident of RMV 2nd Stage and working in a private company. She fell in love with Kumar and they got married in 2016.

"Based on her complaint, a case has been registered. We have issued a notice to the accused and have asked the victim to provide detailed financial transactions and other evidence in the case," a police officer said.

Serial wedding thief arrested, Rs 42-lakh loot recovered

BENGALURU, DHNS: Sadashivanagar police arrested a 45-year-old habitual offender who targeted wedding halls to steal gold ornaments worn by children, and recovered booty worth Rs 42.38 lakh.

Investigations revealed that the accused was involved in at least 11 cases across multiple police station limits, including Sadashivanagar, Jalahalli, Vattur, Bagalagunte and Hennur.

Police said the accused, Babu HK alias Pulsar Babu, a resident of Andrahalli in Peenya, frequented wedding venues on Palace Road, where he identified children wearing gold jewellery, won their trust, and stole ornaments.

The case came to light after a complaint was filed at the Sadashivanagar police station in May 2025, when an unknown person stole a gold pendant and a gold-plated silver chain worn by a child during a wedding.

Based on a tip-off, police tracked down a suspect behaving suspiciously near a wedding hall a week ago. They took him into custody and interrogated him, during which he confessed to multiple thefts at wedding venues.

Following his arrest, police recovered 132 grams of gold ornaments, Rs 1.20 lakh in cash, seven mobile phones, two laptops, two cars, and four two-wheelers from him.

Record case disposal at Natl Lok Adalat

BENGALURU, DHNS: The National Lok Adalat held across the state on March 14 disposed of a record 55,85,136 cases, including pending and pre-litigation matters.

Of these, 2,61,160 were pending cases and 53,23,976 pre-litigation cases.

In a press briefing, Justice Anu Sivaraman, Executive Chairperson of the Karnataka State Legal Services Authority (KSLSA), said Rs 3,248 crore was settled, mainly under the Negotiable Instruments Act and land acquisition cases.

The Lok Adalat settled 3,351 partition suits involving Rs 30 crore, 4,496 motor vehicle cases worth Rs 290 crore, 14,372 cheque bounce cases worth Rs 1,029 crore, and 409 land acquisition cases worth Rs 120 crore.

The KSLSA will soon hold a separate Lok Adalat for land acquisition matters.

Other cases included settlement of 3,330 cases involving senior citizens and reunion of 328 couples in matters before family courts.

◆ IN THE CITY ◆

CULTURAL

Drama Performance: 'The Following'; Directed by Veena Sharma Bhusanura Math; National Drama School, Kalagrama, Mallathahalli; 7 pm.

RELIGIOUS

26th Sri Rama Navami Music Festival: Concert by Srikantham Nagendra Shastri; Raghavendra Swamy Temple; Srikantam Nagendra Sastri Foundation; Anjaneya and Raghavendra Swamy temple premises, 8th Cross, West Park Road, Malleswaram; 6.30 pm.

Devotional Drama Performance: 'Rajadhiraj Yatra'; Kala Nation Team; Prestige Centre for Performing Arts, Konanakunte; 7 pm.

TOMORROW

CULTURAL

Poetry Conference: As part of Ugadi-Ramzan Festival; Jana Shiksha Trust; Ravindra Kalakshetra, JC Road; 4 pm.

Recitation of selected texts from Giridhar Khasanis' books: Azim Premji University; Indian Institute of World Culture, BP Wadia Road; 6 pm.

Devotional Drama: 'Rajadhiraj Yatra'; Kala Nation Team; Prestige Centre for Performing Arts, Konanakunte; 7 pm.

RELIGIOUS

Kalarpana Utsav, Worship of Thyagaraja: Bharatanatyam performance and music orchestra; Kalaarpana Trust; JSS Auditorium, Jayanagar; 9.30 am.

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◆ CITY WEATHER ◆

FORECAST

Generally cloudy sky with light rain

TEMPERATURES

Maximum	31.0°C
Minimum	20.0°C
Rainfall (as of 8:30 am)	NIL
Humidity (as of 5:30 pm)	50%
Sunset (Mar 19)	6:30 pm
Sunrise (Mar 20)	6:25 am
Moonrise	5:44 am
Moonset	5:58 pm

(Relevant data recorded at 5.30 pm) Source: IMD

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#Subject to Approved
LAST DATE FOR APPLICATION
30 April, 2026

SCHOOL EDUCATION DIVISION
New admissions shall be made only to classes VI*, IX* & XI Arts/Science(Maths/Bio)/Commerce.
For admission enquiry: +91-9116624101, +91-9352878388
Email: school_admissions@banasthali.in

Enquiries can be made at
• For general enquiry:
+91-9352879844, +91-9352879855, +91-9352879866
• For UG/PG Admissions:
+91-9116624102 (Engineering & Technology)
+91-9116624103 (Mathematical & Physical Sciences)
+91-9116624104 (Life Science, Aviation, Earth Sc.)
+91-9116624105 (Law & Management Studies)
+91-9352879847 (Humanities, Social Sc., Home Sc.)
+91-9352803156 (Design, Architecture, Fine Arts, Education & Nursing)
Email: ug_admissions@banasthali.in; pg_admissions@banasthali.in

How to Apply
For each programme a separate application is required through either:
Option 1 : Online submission of application at the University's website:
http://www.banasthali.org or
Option 2 : Send a DD for Pre-application fee of Rs. 1000/- in favour of "Banasthali Vidyapith"
Payable at Banasthali/Jaipur to:
Secretary-Banasthali Vidyapith, P.O. Banasthali Vidyapith-304022 (Raj.)
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Scholarships
The Vidyapith provides financial support to the needy students in the form of merit-cum-need scholarships. It also encourages meritorious students by awarding them merit scholarships.

BANASTHALI VIDYAPITH
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Mob.: +91-9352879844, +91-9352879855, +91-9352879866 • Email : admissions@banasthali.in
Visit us at http://www.banasthali.org
Connect with us on www.facebook.com/banasthali.org
Connect with us on www.instagram.com/banasthali_vidyapith_official
NAAC 'A++' 3.63
THE WORLD UNIVERSITY RANKINGS 2025
nirf All India Rank
QS UNIVERSITY RANKINGS ASIA

Festive rush: Private bus operators hike ticket prices

KSRTC to operate 2,000 extra buses from March 20-22

AMULLYA SHIVASHANKAR
BENGALURU, DHNS

A large number of people headed to the Kempegowda bus station to board buses to their native places for the Ugadi festival on Wednesday. DH PHOTO/M S MANJUNATH

With Ugadi and Eid-Ul-Fitr festivals aligning, people have started to head out of Bengaluru.

Redeeming the festival weekend, the private operators have jacked up the price significantly to places such as Kerala, Goa and other popular destinations.

According to travel operators, the price to Cochin has gone up to Rs 6,000. The normal price range is between Rs 1,500 and Rs 2,000. On booking apps also, the bus prices have gone up to Rs 5,000.

The prices for buses heading to Hyderabad have also gone up to around Rs 3,000. "Ugadi is a big festival in Telugu states and in Karnataka. We increase the prices because we know people are travelling," said Sharanu K, a bus operator in Bengaluru.

Rajan S, another operator added, "Long weekends and festivals are when it is profitable for the operators because we get a lot of bookings. On other days, we just about break even."

Long weekend

Pavitra D, a resident of a PG in Kanakapura Road, heading home to Telangana, said, "Ugadi is a grand festival. We head home every year. I pay anything between Rs 1,200 and Rs 1,500. But this time, I have paid Rs 2,300 because of the long weekend.

"Srikanth Hari, an IT employee and a resident of BTM Layout, heading to Hyderabad, said, "Apart from the festival, because of the LPG crisis in the PG, they have cut down most of the menu options and we are left with bland options. So I decided to go home, instead of staying here."

The prices of tickets to religious places such as Dharmasthala, Kukke Subrahmanya and Sringeri have also been raised.

Ugadi Special KSRTC buses

About 2,000 extra buses will be operated from March 20 to 22 on daily routes and until March 22 buses will be operated from various intra and interstate places to Bengaluru.

Special buses will be exclusively operated from Majestic to Dharmasthala, Kukke Subrahmanya, Shivamogga, Hassan, Mangaluru, Kundapura, Sringeri, Horanadu, Davangere, Hubballi, Dharwad, Belagavi, Vijayapura, Gokarna, Sirsi, Karwar, Ballari, Tirupathi, Vijayawada, Hyderabad and other places.

Special buses from Mysuru Road Bus Station will be exclusively operated towards Mysuru, Hunsur, Piriyapatna, Virajpet, Kushalnagar and Madikeri.

Ugadi offers from GRT Jewellers

Rooted in tradition since 1964, GRT Jewellers stands as a symbol of trust passed down generations. Known for its fine craftsmanship and enduring values, the brand offers an extensive range of gold, diamond, platinum, silver and gemstone jewellery. With over 66 showrooms across Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Tamil Nadu and Puducherry, along with one in Singapore, GRT Jewellers continues to celebrate artistry and authenticity while delighting customers with special festive offers year after year.

Continuing its long-standing festive tradition, GRT Jewellers has announced a special Ugadi campaign, 'Swarna Ugadi,' marking the season of new beginnings with a range of attractive benefits for customers across south India. Ugadi, widely celebrated as a festival symbolising prosperity and fresh beginnings, is considered an auspicious time to invest in gold.

As a part of the Swarna Ugadi offers, the brand is offering Rs 250 off per gram on gold jewellery purchases and Rs 100 extra per gram on old gold exchange. You can also avail 12.50 per cent off on diamond and uncut diamond value (excluding solitaires), 25 per cent off on wastage (VA) on silver articles and 10 per cent off on the MRP of silver jewellery. The offers are available for a limited period.

"We are delighted to present our Swarna Ugadi campaign. On this special occasion, we have introduced exclusive festive benefits designed to offer exceptional value. With festivals such as Ugadi, we continue to strengthen the bond we share with our customers", said G R 'Anand' Ananthapadmanabhan, Managing Director, GRT Jewellers.

"We invite everyone to celebrate this Ugadi as 'Swarna Ugadi' with us and welcome prosperity into their homes. Along with our in-store experience, you can explore GRT live video shopping and shop comfortably from your home on grtjewels.com. We have also introduced Instagold, a smart digital gold savings programme that enables you to invest in gold in a simple and secure manner in today's digital era", said G R Radhakrishnan, Managing Director GRT Jewellers.

Curated by DH Brandspot

Biklu Shiva murder case: Default bail granted to four accused

BENGALURU, DHNS : The high court granted default bail to four individuals accused in the murder of rowdy-sheeter Shivaprakash alias Biklu Shiva. Justice S Sunil Dutt Yadav granted bail to P Jagadish alias Jagga (accused number 1), K Kiran (accused number 2), B Vimal Raj (accused number 3) and R Madam (accused number 7).

The petitioners challenged the order of the special court for cases involving MP/MLAs, which rejected their application seeking default bail in the case. The case went to the special court since BJP MLA from KR Puram constituency B A Basavaraja is also an accused.

Shivaprakash was murdered on Meanee Avenue Road in Bharathinagar on July 15, 2025. The order invoking the provisions of the Karnataka Control of Organised Crimes Act (KCOCA) was quashed by the high court on December 19, 2025.

The petitioners submitted that their applications seeking default bail were rejected by the special court observing that the period for completion of investigation was extended by judicial order at a time when the order invoking KCOCA was in force. The petitioners contended that they had filed applications immediately, at 12pm on December 22, 2025, while the preliminary chargesheet was filed the very day at 5.15pm. The special court held that since the application seeking default bail and chargesheet were filed on the same day, the right of the accused to claim default bail stood extinguished.

Justice Sunil Dutt Yadav noted that though Section 22 of KCOCA provides for an additional period of 90 days to complete the investigation, the consequence of setting aside of the order granting approval for invocation of KCOCA would mean that the petitioners are governed by the provisions of Section 167(2) of CrPC.

"Accordingly, the right to default bail having accrued even on a reasonable interpretation on 20.12.2025 and the petitioners having exercised their right by 12pm on 22.12.2025 were entitled to be released on bail. The filing of the charge-sheet at 5.15pm on 22.12.2025, which is later in point of time could not defeat the right accrued to the petitioners to be released on bail," Justice Sunil Dutt Yadav said.

The court further said, "It is clearly laid down by the Apex Court that after lapse of the maximum time available for filing of chargesheet when accused is in custody and the application for default bail is filed, the filing of chargesheet even at a subsequent point of time on the same day cannot be considered."

Minister moots panel to regulate hon doctorates

BENGALURU, DHNS: Minister for Higher Education Dr M C Sudhakar has proposed the constitution of an expert panel to regulate honorary doctorates.

In a letter to Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot, also the chancellor of universities, Dr Sudhakar mentioned about the lack of standards in awarding honorary doctorates.

It said due to the lack of standard uniform norms, multiple universities were awarding honorary doctorates to same persons. In the letter, the minister sought approval to constitute the panel.

The move comes in the wake of Congress member Ramesh Babu raising the issue in the Legislative Council recently, urging the government to set up a regulatory mechanism.

According to the letter, provisions under the Karnataka State Universities Act, 2000, empower universities to confer honorary doctorates on distinguished individuals for their contributions.

However, the absence of clear guidelines has led to instances of multiple universities honouring the same person, raising questions about credibility and standardisation.

Uniform guidelines

"To preserve the dignity, credibility and sanctity of honorary degrees, it has become necessary to evolve uniform regulatory guidelines," the minister's letter said.

The matter was not addressed during the vice-chancellors' conference held on February 21, where discussions were limited to convocation procedures and academic calendars.

So, the government has now proposed the formation of a dedicated expert committee.

CENTRAL RAILWAY
SOLAPUR DIVISION
Electrical General Service

The Senior Divisional Electrical Engineer, General, Central Railway, Solapur, for and on behalf of the President of India invites online e-tenders on Railways e-procurement website **www.ireps.gov.in** from reputed experienced & Licensed Electrical contractors for the following works. **Tender No.:** SUR/L/T/2025/37, **Name of work:** Electrical General Service portion of work in connection with Provision of New Pit Line at Kalaburagi Railway Station over Solapur Division., **Estimated Cost:** Rs. 1,86,23,708.30, **Bid Security:** Rs. 3,72,500/-, **Completion Period:** 09 Months, **Validity of offer:** 60 Days. **Date & Time of tenders closing on website:** 09.04.2026 at 15:00 hrs. Bid Security cost shall be paid through e-payment on website **www.ireps.gov.in.**

Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer (G)
DE/Sur-09 **Central Railway, Solapur**

TRAVEL SAFELY, AVOID FOOTBOARD TRAVELLING

कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय
ग्रामीण विकास विशेष प्रमण्डल, चतरा

ई–निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना

डी0एम0एफ0टी0 मद से चतरा जिलान्तर्गत स्वीकृत निम्नांकित योजनाओं के क्रियान्वयन हेतु ग्रामीण विकास विभाग (ग्रामीण कार्य मामले), झारखण्ड सरकार द्वारा समुचित श्रेणी के निबंधित संवेदको से द्वि (Two) लिफाफा पद्धति के अंतर्गत निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है।

ई–निविदा सूचना संख्या :– RDD/SD/CHATRA/15/2025-26

1.कार्य की विस्तृत विवरणी :–

ग्रुप० सं०	प्रखण्ड	पंचायत	ग्राम	कार्य का नाम	प्राक्कलित राशि	अग्रधन की राशि	परिमाण विपत्र का मूल्य	कार्य पूर्ण करने की अवधि	लिफाफा पद्धति
1	टण्डवा	कबरा	सिसई	Construction of High Level RCC Girder Bridge Over Barki River at Panchayat Kabra Birhor Tand to Khadhaiya Path Block-Tandwa.	42692250.00	854000.00	10000.00	18 माह	द्वि (Two)
2	सिमरिया	जॉगी	चलकी	Construction of High Level Girder Bridge Across Thali River at Gram Chalki Under Jangi Panchayat Block-Simariya.	27319275.00	547000.00	10000.00	18 माह	द्वि (Two)

2. वेबसाईट में निविदा प्रकाशन की तिथि – **28.03.2026**
3. ई–निविदा प्राप्ति की तिथि एवं समय – दिनांक–**28.03.2026** से दिनांक–**11.04.2026** के अपराह्न 05:00 बजे तक
4. ई–निविदा खोलने का स्थान– कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय, ग्रामीण विकास विशेष प्रमण्डल, चतरा।
5. ई–निविदा खोलने की तिथि एवं समय – **13.04.2026** अपराह्न 02:00 बजे
6. ई–निविदा आमंत्रित करने वाले पदाधिकारी का नाम एवं पता :– कार्यपालक अभियंता, ग्रामीण विकास विशेष प्रमंडल, चतरा।
7. ई–निविदा प्रकोष्ठ का दूरभाष सं० – 9431060939 (संबंधित कार्यपालक अभियंता का दूरभाष नम्बर)
8. परिमाण विपत्र की राशि घट–बढ़ सकती है, तदनुसार अग्रधन की राशि देय होगी।
9. निविदा शुल्क एवं अग्रधन की राशि केवल Online Mode द्वारा स्वीकार्य होगी।
10. निविदा शुल्क एवं अग्रधन की राशि का ई–भुगतान जिस खाता से किया जायेगा, उसी खाते में अग्रधन की राशि वापस होगी। अगर खाता को बन्द कर दिया जाता है तो उसकी सारी जवाबदेही आपकी होगी।

विस्तृत जानकारी के लिये वेबसाईट www.jharkhandtenders.gov.in एवं कार्यालय की सूचना पट्ट पर देखा जा सकता है।

कार्यपालक अभियंता,
ग्रामीण विकास विशेष प्रमंडल, चतरा

PR 375478 Rural Development(25-26).D

Jharkhand Industrial Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited (JIIDCO)
(A Govt. of Jharkhand Undertaking)
5th Floor, Udyog Bhawan, Ratu Road, Ranchi – 834001 (Jharkhand)
e-mail- jiidcoltd@gmail.com www.jiidco.co.in Phone no. 0651-3512851
CIN U45208JH2004GOI011078
Letter no: -182 dated: -18.03.2026

NOTICE INVITING TENDER
(through e-procurement mode only-www.jharkhandtenders.gov.in)
NIT No.- JIIDCO/31/Women Hostel/SBD/2025-2026

Designation and Address of the Advertiser: - Chief Engineer, JIIDCO, 5th Floor, Udyog Bhawan, Ratu Road, Ranchi-834001

1. Mode of submission of tender :- Online through www.jharkhandtenders.gov.in
2. Date of publishing on portal and website :- 20.03.2026
3. Start date for downloading of the Bid Documents :- 20.03.2026, 02:00 A.M onwards
4. Date of Pre-bid meeting :- 25.03.2026 at 12:30 P.M.
5. Last date for submission of Bidding Documents :- 09.04.2026 up to 4:00 P.M.
6. Bid opening date (Technical) :- 10.04.2026 at 5:00 P.M.
7. Details of works: -

Bid No.	Name of work	Estimated Cost/ECV (Rupees)	Amount of Earnest money (E.M.D) (Rupees)	Cost of BOQ (Non-refundable in Rupees)	Time of completion of work (Months)
1	2	3	4	5	6
01	Construction of 500 Bed ded Working Women Hostel at Nirsa, Dhanbad, Jharkhand	22,16,34,721.00	22,20,000.00	11,800.00	24 months

1. Tender fee (non-refundable) & EMD is to be received through online mode only. Bidders can use internet banking facility for faster processing of Tender fee Alternatively, Bidders can use NEFT/RTGS challan generated for the tender from http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in. **portal.**
   Refund will only be issued to Originated bank account used for the payment of EMD. So, bidders are advised NOT to close the above Bank Account used for online payment NEFT/RTGS of EMD.
   No Hardcopy/Physical copy is required to be submitted for tender opening/evaluation. However, Department may ask original documents for verification before award of contract.
2. Bid Validity :- 180 days
3. Place of opening of Technical Bid : - JIIDCO, 5th Floor, Udyog Bhawan, Ratu Road, Ranchi-834001
4. For any information/complaints the department helpline no. M.b.no. 7004785102 may be contacted.
5. Further details can be seen on website- www.jharkhandtenders.gov.in.
6. Any Corrigendum or Addendum will be notified on website: - www.jharkhandtenders.gov.in only.

Note: (i) Any change can be seen on website www.jharkhandtenders.gov.in
(ii) Any other information can be seen on www.jharkhandtenders.gov.in
(iii) The estimated cost mentioned above in sl. No.7 column no. 3 is approximate which may increase or decrease.

PR 375513 Jharkhand Industrial Infrastructure Dev Co Ltd(25-26)D Sd/- Chief Engineer JIIDCO Ranchi

कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय
लघु सिंचाई प्रमंडल, हजारीबाग
executiveengineerirri@gmail.com

पत्रांक :– 219 हजारीबाग / दिनांक :– 16.03.2026

शुद्धि पत्र

एतद् द्वारा सूचित किया जाता है कि इस कार्यालय के पत्रांक 152 दिनांक 28.02.2026 के द्वारा निर्गत ई – निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना संख्या DMFT/MID/HAZARIBAG/F2-37/2025-26 पी0 आर0 न0– 373867 (Minor Irrigation) 25-26*D द्वारा प्रकाशित निविदा अपरिहार्य कारण वश अगले आदेश तक स्थगित किया जाता है।

कार्यपालक अभियंता,
लघु सिंचाई प्रमंडल,
हजारीबाग

PR 375465 Minor Irrigation (25-26)_D

CENTRAL RAILWAY
SOLAPUR DIVISION
Supply of 65mm Stone Ballast

Divisional Railway Manager(Works), Central Railway, Solapur on behalf of President of India, invites e-tender from the reputed firms/contractor for following works. **Tender Notice No.:** 08-2026-SrDENS, **Name of work:** Supplying and stacking on Railway ground 65mm machine crushed stone ballast as per latest specification of RDSO/LKO of Feb-2023 with latest amendments including royalty and fees etc and loading the same into Railway hoppers/wagons etc. as directed by ADEN at site at DUD depot. (Total 50,00 m3), **Approximate Cost of the work:** Rs. 5,27,29,500/-, **Earnest Money:** Rs. 4,13,700/-, **Completion period of the work:** 18 Months, **Maintenance Period:** NA, **Last Date & Time of uploading quoted tender on www.ireps.gov.in website:** 07.04.2026 upto 15:00 hrs., **Date & Time of Opening of tender on www.ireps.gov.in:** 07.04.2026 at 15:30 hrs. The prospective tenderers are advised to revisit the website frequently before the date of closing of tender to note any changes/ corrigenda issued for this tender. Website: **www.ireps.gov.in**

Divisional Railway Manager (Works)
DE/Sur-08 **Central Railway, Solapur**

TRAVEL SAFELY, AVOID FOOTBOARD TRAVELLING

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the General Public that our client has negotiated with (i). **Smt. Rupa Lalchand Dadlani** W/o. Lalchand B Dadlani and (ii). **Gautam L Dadlani** S/o. Lalchand B Dadlani, both residing at No.21/1, Dadlani Villa, Craig Park Layout, M.G. Road, Bengaluru-560001 to purchase the Schedule Property for valuable consideration. It is represented to our client that the aforementioned persons have purchased Schedule Property from the previous owners, Mr. Navuluri Rakesh Choudary and Smt. Navuluri Reena, under registered Sale Deed dated 09/08/2017.

Any person(s) claiming any right, title or interest of whatsoever nature over the schedule property is called upon to lodge such claim with the undersigned, with supporting documents within 10 days from the date of this publication by making communication with us. In the event no such claim(s) is received within the stipulated time, it shall be lawful for our client to presume that there are no valid claim(s) adverse to their right, title and interest in the schedule property and proceed with the proposed sale transaction.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of property being BDA vacant site bearing Site No.2065, B.B.M.P. Khata No.1675/2065, situated at Sector-I, Hosur-Sarjapura Road Layout, Ahara Extension, Bengaluru, Measuring East to West :- 18.13 Mtrs; North to South :- 12.19 Mtrs, in all admeasuring totally an extent of 211 Sq. Mtrs. Bounded on: East by :- Road; West by :- Site No. 2060; North by :- Site No. 2064; South by :- Site No.2066.

SRI KRISHNA LAW CHAMBERS
Advocates and Legal Consultants
Central Chambers, No.F-113, 3rd Floor, Gandhinagar, 2nd Main, Bengaluru-560009.
Mob: +91 9591999985

Government of Jharkhand
Rural Works Department
JHARKHAND STATE RURAL ROADS DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (JSRRDA)
3rd Floor, F.F.P. Building, Dhurwa, Ranchi 834004

NOTICE INVITING TENDERS
(National Competitive Bidding Through e-Procurement)
Re-eTender No.- 12/ 2025-26 **Ranchi, Dated: 18.03.2026**
PR No- 363880 dated 11.10.2025 (2nd Call)

The undersigned on behalf of Government of Jharkhand invites item rate bids through e-Procurement from the eligible bidders registered* in appropriate class with any State/Central Government/State /Central Government Organization for construction and maintenance for five years of the works (List of schemes shall be displayed in the website pmgsytendersjhr.gov.in) of Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojna PM-JANMAN (Batch-1, 2025-26).

Sr. No	District Name	Block Name	Tendering Package	Road Name / Bridge Name	Road Length (Kms)	Sanction Construction Cost (in lakhs)	Sanction Maintenace Cost (in lakhs)	Total Sanction Cost with Maint. (in lakhs)	Total Package Cost (in lakhs)	Earnest Money (In Lakh)	Time of Completion (in month)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
1	Godda	Sunder pahari	JH-09-PMJANMAN-GOD-08 (2025-26)	L036-AMJORA TO GOSMARA VIA BALAMKO, GOGA	5.600	515.86	31.05	546.91	1,149.20	22.99	15
	Godda	Sunder pahari		L038-LACHHU TOLA TO MASSPARA	3.000	298.68	17.60	316.28			
	Godda	Sunder pahari		L026-REO ROAD TO KATHALDIH PAHARIYA TOLI	0.650	60.29	3.50	63.79			
	Godda	Sunder pahari		L033-SAHAPI TO SAHAPI KHOTTA	2.100	209.74	12.48	222.22			
		Total			11.35	1084.57	64.63	1149.20	1149.20		

The bid should be submitted online in the website **pmgsytendersjhr.gov.in**. The bidders should have valid Digital Signature Certificate for online submission of bid.
Details of bid submission is as under:

Procurement Officer	Place of Opening	Availability of tender (on-line) for bidding		Last date & time of seeking clarification	Last date and time of bid submission	Date & time of opening (on-line) of tender	
		From	To			Technical bid	Financial bid
1	2	3	4	5	6	8	9
Engineer in Chief, JSRRDA, Ranchi	Engineer in Chief JSRRDA, Ranchi	19.03.2026 at 10.00 AM	06.04.2026 upto 5.00 PM	25.03.2026 upto 2.00 PM	06.04.2026 upto 5.00 PM	06.04.2026 at 05.30 PM	To be informed later

** Non-registered bidders may also submit bid, however the successful bidders must get registered in appropriate class with appropriate authority before signing the contract.*
*** Cost may change.*

Note :-
1. Amount of Bid Security should be taken as mentioned in the Bid Data Sheet of the Bidding Document.
2. Cost of Bid Document (Rs. 10000) and Bid Security (as mentioned in the Bid Data Sheet) shall be deposited **online** in form as mentioned in Bid Data Sheet failing which the bid will be treated non responsive and action shall be taken as per Sec. 2 of ITB clause 12.2 (d).
3. In case, it is found, even after the award of work that the bidder has submitted/ uploaded any false/erroneous/fraudulent statement/document, he/she is liable for blacklisting and forfeiture of Bid Security.
4. Bidders must submit GST registration certificate without which bid is liable to be rejected.
5. Bidders whose names appear in the Debar/blacklist of RWD or any department of GoJ/GoI (including JSRRDA) shall not be allowed to participate in the above bids.
6. Bids submitted by bidders, who have long pending ATR(s) made inordinate delay in execution of earlier allotted construction/ maintenance works of PMGSY, may be rejected summarily.
7. In case of any discrepancy/dispute about units in BOQ, units as mentioned in Current SOR on which BOQ has been prepared shall prevail.
8. Participating bidders are free to submit grievances, if any, against the decision of technical evaluation within five days from the date of uploading of decision of technical evaluation only through email at **jh-ce@pmgsy.nic.in** Grievance submitted after stipulated period shall not be considered.
9. Bidders must have valid registration with Employee Provident Fund organization under EPF and Miscellaneous Provisions Act 1952 failing which the bid shall be rejected.
10. Bidders must not quote rate for routine maintenance. The amount for routine maintenance as indicated in the Bill of Quantities must be acceptable to bidders.
11. For unbalanced bids, extra security will be required to be deposited by the bidder at the time of Agreement.
12. The undersigned reserves the right to cancel the tender at any stage without giving prior notice/reason.

All other details can be seen in the bidding document which is available in website **pmgsytendersjhr.gov.in** as per schedule mentioned above.

Sd/-
Engineer-in- Chief
Rural Works Department- Cum-JSRRDA, Ranchi

PR 375506 Rural Work Department(25-26).D

PUBLIC NOTICE

The general public is hereby informed that our client proposes to acquire the lands measuring about 17 acres 11.87 guntas comprised in various survey numbers all located at Bairanahalli Village, Kasaba Hobli, Nelamangala Taluk, Bangalore Rural District, hereinafter collectively referred to as '**Schedule Property**', from its present owner *i.e.,* Indospace Nelamangala Industrial Park Private Limited. The details of the Schedule Property is morefully set out in the **Schedule** hereinbelow.

Any person/s having objection/s to the above mentioned transaction or any person/s claiming to have any manner of right, title, interest, claim or demand in relation to owner and/or the Schedule Property or any part thereof, may lodge his/her/their statement/s, objection/s and/or claim/s in writing, along with documentary evidence in support thereof, with the undersigned, within 14 (fourteen) days from the date of publication of this notice. In the absence of any genuine and/or rightful objections and/or claims, our client will proceed to finalize and conclude the proposed transaction of purchase of the Schedule Property by way of an outright sale from the present owners, as if no claim/s or objection/s exist and that they have been consciously waived and abandoned by such person/s forever.

SCHEDULE

All that lands measuring about 17 acres 11.87 guntas (including *kharab*) comprised in various survey numbers all located at Bairanahalli Village, Kasaba Hobli, Nelamangala Taluk, Bangalore Rural District and bounded as follows:

Sl. No.	Survey No.	Extent (excluding kharab)		Kharab	Boundaries			
		Acre	Guntas	Guntas	East	West	North	South
1.	87/1	2	26	14	86/1 & 122	30/5	87/2	Government village road
2.	87/1	1	37	15	86/1 & 122	30/5	87/2	Government village road
3.	87/2	2	16	-	122 & 86	30/5	88/1, 88/2 & 88/3	87/1
4.	88/1	1	-	3	88/2	30/5	89/1	87/2
5.	88/2	1	3	3	88/3	88/1	89/1	87/1
6.	88/3	1	3	3	122	87/2	89/1	88/2
7.	89/1	3	11	4	122	30/5	89/2 & 89/4	88/1, 88/2 & 88/3
8.	122/1	2	-	-	86/1 & 86/2	87/1, 87/2, 88/3 & 89/1	Remaining portion of land bearing Survey No.122	87/1
9.	122/2 (Part)	-	32.99	0.88	122/3	89 & Road	Remaining portion of land bearing Survey No. 122/2	122/2
TOTAL		16	8.99	42.88				

Date: 19.03.2026
Place: Bengaluru

Abhilash Pillai
Partner
Cyril Amarchand Mangaldas
Level 3, Prestige Falcon Towers, 19
Brunton Road, Off M.G. Road
Bengaluru - 560 025

S. E. RAILWAY – TENDER

e-Tender Notice No. ST-PROJ-KGP-HWH-6El-R, Date 17.03.2026. For and on behalf of the President of India, Dy. Chief Signal & Telecom Engineer/Project/ Kharagpur invites e-Tender for the following works : **Name of Work :** All S&T works excluding the construction of building for Replacement of old Electronic Interlocking with new Electronic Interlocking at Shyamchak, Balichak, Haur, Bhogpur, Fuleshwar and Mourigram Flyover Block Hut in Kharagpur Division. **Approximate cost of works :** ₹ 55,62,06,414.70. **Earnest Money :** ₹ 1,11,24,100/-. **Date & time of closing of e-tender :** 16.04.2026, 13.00 hrs. **Website on which tender has been published: www.ireps.gov.in** (PR-1319)

S. E. RAILWAY – TENDER

Sr. Divisional Mechanical Engineer, Electric Loco Shed, Ispatnagar, Jharkhand-827010 acting for and on behalf of The President of India invites E-Tender against **Tender No. IPTE-TRS-TM-OH-26-01** for the following work: **Name of work :** Repair/ Reconditioning of Hitachi TM of conventional Electric locomotives. **Quantity :** 495 Nos. **Scope of work:** Attached with tender ducument. **Tender Value:** ₹ 8,07,39,786.60. **Earnest Money :** ₹ 5,53,700/-. **Contract Period:** 12 months. **Cost of Tender Document:** Nil. **Closing Date & Time of tender:** 10.04.2026 at 15:00 hrs. Detail of Tender document is available in the e-Tender Portal and the URL of the IREPS website is **www.ireps.gov.in** (PR-1323)

Thanksgiving

Thanksgiving

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Big chunk of N-K's 'most backward' taluks still carry tag from 2002

75% SDP funds on 'most backward' taluks spent on NK region itself

SUJAY B M
BENGALURU, DHNS

In a strong indication of the continuing backwardness of North Karnataka, a large majority of the taluks identified as 'most backward' by the Nanjundappa committee in 2002, continued to be identified in the same category by the M Govinda Rao committee in 2026.

According to the report by the Govinda Rao-led Karnataka Regional Imbalances Redressal Committee, which was placed in both Houses of the Legislature on Wednesday, of the 39 'most backward' taluks as per the Nanjundappa committee report, 23 have been categorised as 'most backward,' six as 'more backward' and 10 as 'backward' by the Govinda Rao-led committee too. All these 23 taluks are in North Karnataka.

Though both the committees followed different conceptual frameworks and methodologies, the figures indicate that even amongst the previously 'most backward' taluks, all the ones in the southern region improved, while a majority of the North Karnataka taluks continue to struggle.

While the Nanjundappa Committee found that 114 of the then 175 taluks belonged to the 'most backward,' 'more backward' and 'backward' categories, the Govinda Rao report found that 177 of the total 236 taluks were in the 'most backward,' 'more backward' and 'backward' categories. The North Karnataka region includes the Kalaburagi and Belagavi revenue divisions. The 23 taluks that have remained in the most backward category are Aurad, Humnabad and Bhalki (Bidar), Chincholi, Chittapur, Aland, Afzalpur, Jewargi and Sedam (Kalaburagi), Shorapur, Yadgir and Shahapur (Yadgir), Devadurga, Lingasugur, Manvi and Sindhanur (Raichur), Yelburga and Kushtagi (Koppal), Harapanahalli and Kudligi (Vijayanagar) and Indi, Sindagi and Basavana Bagewadi (Vijayapura). Of these 23 'most backward' taluks, 20 are in the Kalyana Karnataka region itself—widely considered Karnataka's most backward region, while the other three taluks are in Kittur Karnataka region.

Of the 39 'most backward' taluks as per the Nanjundappa committee report, 23 have been categorised as 'most backward,' six as 'more backward' and 10 as 'backward' by the Govinda Rao-led committee too

The Nanjundappa committee had found that 27 of the most backward taluks were in the North Karnataka region (actually 26, but Harapanahalli, which was earlier in Davangere district, is now part of Vijayanagar district of Kalyana Karnataka region. Thus, the effective number is 27). Of these, Basavakalyana (Bidar), Bilagi (Bagalkot) and Muddebihal (Vijayapura) have moved to 'more backward' category, while Sandur has gone up by two places to 'backward' category.

Southern taluks improve

All 12 of the taluks in Bengaluru and Mysuru revenue division that were considered 'most backward' by Nanjundappa committee have improved.

While Bagepalli (Chikkaballapur), Channagiri (Davangere) and H D Kote (Mysuru) progressed to 'more backward' category, Magadi and Kanakapura (Bengaluru South), Madhugiri, Kunigal, Pavagada, Sira and Gubbi (Tumakuru) and Chamarajanagar (Chamarajanagar) progressed to 'backward' category. Of the overall Rs 12,977.97 crore spent on the development of the most backward taluks as per the special development plan (SDP) from 2007-08 to 2023-24, as much as Rs 9,723.88 crore (74.92%) were spent on North Karnataka region alone.

Pay penalty to get forest clearance for Yettinahole project: MoEF panel

It seeks action on 'those responsible' for works sans clearances

CHIRANJEEVI KULKARNI
BENGALURU, DHNS

The Yettinahole drinking water project may finally get forest clearance to avoid further delay, if the government punishes errant officials and pays the compensation for the unauthorised work in 266.79 acres of forest land.

The Rs 23,251.66-crore project has been taken up in two phases with the lift irrigation works in the first phase declared completed in September 2024. Under phase 2, the government has taken up works in five packages that include canal works in Belur taluk (8.55 km), Arsikere taluk (5.18 km) and Tumakuru (2.44 km), for which the Visvesvaraya Jala Nigam Limited (VJNL) had sought 274.31 acres of forest land.

However, unauthorised work taken up on 266.79 acres of forest meant the forest advisory committee of the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) had questioned several actions by the state government agency and also sought a wildlife management plan before considering the proposal for forest diversion. In its recent meeting, the committee looked into VJNL's proposal once again and recommended the project for in-principle approval of the central government, with specific conditions and invoked penal provisions provided under the law.

The committee said the first "specific" condition was action against "those responsible" for taking up works without necessary clearances. Secondly, the payment of penal net present value (NPV) for the forest area used in violation of the rules.

Penal NPV

"(The penal NPV) shall be five times the NPV of the forest land plus 12% simple interest," the committee said, adding that the penal compensatory afforestation rules issued in January 2026 shall be applicable.

The penalty proposed by the state government will be verified by the regional office of MoEF&CC. The VJNL has to restore the forest area used without prior approval and has to bear the cost of reclamation and rehabilitation.

The state government has to submit a detailed plan on the matter, the panel said, reiterating its earlier suggestion to implement a wildlife management plan. A forest officer familiar with the matter said the penal provisions will be fixed in the coming months when the project proposal is assessed after the committee's recommendations.

"The assessment prior to stage 1 (in-principle) approval will fix the penalty. The government wants to expedite the project. So, we expect to see fast movement of files," he added.

Title deeds given to 30 beneficiaries, including 12 evicted in Kogilu

BENGALURU, DHNS: Housing Minister Zameer Ahmed Khan and Revenue Minister Krishna Byre Gowda on Wednesday distributed title deeds to 30 beneficiaries, including 12 families displaced during the eviction drive in Kogilu Layout, at a programme held in Vikasa Soudha. The title deeds were issued under the Rajiv Gandhi Housing Corporation scheme.

Speaking at the event, Khan said that although 165 individuals were initially identified as victims in the Kogilu case, scrutiny of documents found only 61 eligible beneficiaries. Of them, 12 have now been provided with title deeds.

The state government is building a total of 1,187 one-bedroom (1 BHK) flats in Byappanahalli village, which falls within Byatarayanapura Assembly constituency.

Following the clearance of unauthorized houses in Kogilu Bande, the Revenue Department and the Greater Bengaluru Authority conducted a survey, and a list of 165 homeless individuals has been submitted. Among them, 61 families are eligible according to the guidelines of the government's housing scheme, Krishna Byre Gowda said.

"The pending cases of the remaining families will be reviewed in the next Ashraya Committee meeting upon resubmission of the required documents to the Rajiv Gandhi Housing Corporation," the officials said.

'Amendment Bill dilutes rights of transgender, gender-diverse communities'

BENGALURU, DHNS

Echoes of 'Jai Bheem' reverberated across the Freedom Park on Wednesday as hundreds gathered to protest the proposed Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Amendment Bill, 2026.

The protest, called by members of the National Network for Gender and Sexual Minorities (NNGSM), comprised activists and civil society groups from 18 districts across Karnataka.

They alleged that the amendment would dilute the rights of transgender and gender-diverse communities. They argued that the proposed changes seek to narrowly define "transgender persons" by limiting recognition to traditional socio-cultural identities such as Hijra, Kinnar, Jogti, Aravani, and intersex persons, thereby excluding individuals whose gender identity is based on self-perception. The community members of the set fire to the proposed bill at the protest.

Activists and members of the transgender community raise slogans during a protest staged against the proposed Transgender Amendment Bill 2026 at the Freedom Park in Bengaluru on Wednesday. Members of the community set fire to the proposed Bill at the protest. DH PHOTO/PUSHKAR V

"Self-identification and declarations are a right which we all have, and as per 2019 Act, the community members were able to determine their own gender without the approval of any authorities. The amendment bill cripples this. By doing so, they are further marginalising one of the most marginalised communities. This specifically impacts the trans masculine community, non binary, and gender fluid people," said Astha Kalarikkal, activist and executive director of city-based non-profit RAAHI. The protesters feared that the amendment bill would erase a large chunk of queer community.

The activists said the move undermines the principle of self-identification, affirmed by the Supreme Court in its landmark 2014 judgment recognising individuals' right to determine their own gender identity.

They contended that the amendment effectively removes legal recognition of self-perceived gender identity, reversing key protections guaranteed under existing law.

Activist and lawyer Arvind Narrain also explained the bill's legal implications and its potential harms to the queer community gathered at the venue. The protesters urged wider public awareness and support, stressing that the legislation, if passed, could have far-reaching implications on access to rights and welfare.

"The move threatens people's right to exist as who they are. Overall, bodily autonomy is being completely taken away, and this step should be scary to people even beyond the queer community. Today, the government might be targeting the transgender community, and if we don't speak up, the bodily autonomy of women will also be under threat," Prithvi (name changed), a participant, said.

Wildlife board seeks more inputs on Sharavathi power project

BENGALURU: The National Board of Wildlife (NBWL) standing committee has decided to get more inputs before deciding on the plan for a 2,000 MW power project in the Sharavathi Valley Lion-Tailed Macaque Sanctuary, days after an expert committee recommended its rejection in a site-inspection report.

The standing committee constituted the independent expert committee after concerns were raised by its two members. The minutes of the standing committee meeting, made available on Wednesday, showed the members going into details of the site-inspection report.

The report points out that the pumped storage project only facilitates temporal shifting of electricity rather than net addition of generation capacity was considered. However, while the report recommended the rejection of the project by noting that the projected benefits were not commensurate with irreversible ecological impacts in a legally protected and ecologically fragile landscape, the standing committee decided to seek more inputs.

"After discussions, the standing committee decided to defer the proposal with the direction that the state government may provide detailed justification regarding the increase in power availability from the project, examine alternative technologies for power storage outside the protected area for achieving similar objectives," it said.

The site inspection report had exposed that Karnataka Power Corporation Limited (KPCL) had concealed crucial details regarding power evacuation, noting that even upgradation of transmission lines would involve large-scale construction activities in a fragile landscape.

The standing committee did not comment on the concealment. Instead, it asked the state government to provide a detailed plan for evacuation of power. Additionally, comments have been sought from National Institute of Advanced Studies on project proposal along with clarifications on the issues raised. "The proposal may be reconsidered by the standing committee after receipt of the required information from state government," it said.

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
NATIONAL HEALTH MISSION
Karnataka State Health & Family Welfare Society
Arogya Soudha, 1st Floor, Magadi Road, Bengaluru - 23
Ph: 080-23113588

No.: NHM/SPMU/HR/Recruitment-State/Notification/50/2025-26(E-1127145) Date: 16.03.2026

Walk-In- Interview for various posts under NHM

The Karnataka State Health & Family Welfare Society invites eligible candidates for Walk-In-Interview for the various vacant posts under National Health Mission. The posts are temporary and purely on contract basis. For detailed information login to **www.hfwcom.karnataka.gov.in & nhm.karnataka.gov.in** address.

Walk-In-Interview has been scheduled on **06.04.2026 @ 11.00 AM**, In the office of Chief Administrative Officer, National Health Mission, 1st Floor West wing, Arogya Soudha, Magadi Road, 1st Cross, Bengaluru-560023.

Sl. No.	Programme Name	Name of the Post	Number of Posts	Reservation Category
1	TB/NTEP/ RNTCP/NTCP	Technical Officer Procurement & Logistics	01	UR
2		Medical Officer	01	UR
3	RCH	NHM Consultant	01	UR
4		HR Consultant	01	UR
5		Programme Assistant	01	UR
6	Family Welfare	Procurement Officer- FPLMIS	01	UR
7	Immunization	Vaccine Logistic Manager	01	UR
8	National Leprosy Eradication Programme [NLEP]	State Leprosy Consultant	01	UR
9	National Urban Health Mission [NUHM]	MIS Data Manager	01	UR
10	National Programme for Prevention & Control of Deafness	NPPCD Consultant	01	UR
11	National Tobacco Control Programme	Legal Consultant	01	UR
12	National Free Diagnostic Services	NFDS Consultant	01	UR
13	Pre-Conception & Pre Natal Diagnostic Technic	M & E Manager	01	UR

**Candidates will not be allowed after scheduled time.

Sd/-
Mission Director
National Health Mission

DIPR/CP/6332/SA/2025-26

C.H. RAGHAVAN
Dy. Manager, HAL (Retired)
18 Feb 1941 – 14 Mar 2026

A beloved husband, father, grandfather and friend, he was known for his warmth, humour, and love of conversation.

He will be deeply missed by
Sreekumari, Sarita, Sharath, Preethi, Pranav, Rhea, friends and family

Byelections, a matter of prestige for ruling Congress: Hebbalkar

BENGALURU, DHNS: The by-elections to the Davangere South and Bagalkot Assembly constituencies are a matter of prestige for the Congress party.

"Winnability is the only benchmark," said Women and Child Development Minister Laxmi Hebbalkar, while speaking to reporters following a meeting of the bypoll in-charge committee meeting. The minister said that eight names were under consideration in Davangere South constituency.

"We need to work keeping in mind the upcoming district and taluk panchayat elections, GBA polls and the 2028 Assembly elections. The chief minister and the deputy chief minister will finalise the candidates after discussions with the high command," she said.

Bypolls: CM favours Meti family for Bagalkot segment

Cong likely to give tickets to kin of deceased leaders

BENGALURU, DHNS

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Wednesday hinted that one of the family members of late H Y Meti will be given ticket from Bagalkot seat in the upcoming bypoll.

The bypolls to Davangere South and Bagalkot were necessitated following the demise of veteran leaders Shamanur Shivashankarappa and H Y Meti respectively.

The ruling Congress, which continues to grapple with multiple contenders, is likely to give the tickets to the family members of the deceased leaders in both the seats.

Davangere South presents a complex challenge for the ruling party as the Shamanur family is keen on fielding Samarth Shamanur, son of Minister S S Mallikarjun and Davangere MP Prabha Mallikarjun. However, Housing Minister Zameer Ahmed Khan has pitched for a Muslim candidate.

Prabha Mallikarjun met KPCC president D K Shivakumar in Delhi to lobby for her son, who is on a temple run and publicly asserting his "connect" with the constituency, which has a sizeable Lingayat population. On Wednesday, supporters of Abdul Jabbar threatened to pick NOTA if their leader was denied the ticket.

In Bagalkot too, the party is in a fix. Siddaramaiah held a closed door meeting with the children of late Meti – his sons Mallikarjun and Umesh, and daughters Mahadevi and Baayakka, at his Vidhana Soudha office.

As all four children are keen to contest, the chief minister reportedly advised them to arrive at a consensus and not make the family rift public. However, Mahadevi has warned of contesting as a rebel candidate if denied a ticket.

Leader of the Opposition R Ashoka slammed the chief minister for holding the election-related meeting at Vidhana Soudha. "Siddaramaiah is either getting forgetful or is under pressure. He is perhaps in a dilemma whether to continue or quit as CM. They have party office or their residences to hold election meetings. Why hold an election meeting at CMO instead of the KPCC office and in the absence of the KPCC chief? This is misuse of power and unpardonable," said Ashoka.

With the bypolls scheduled for April 9, a final decision is likely post consultations with district leaders.

Our community lacks winnable candidate in D'gere south: Cong's Muslim leaders

They stress need to develop rapport with other communities

NRUPATHUNGA S K
DAVANGERE, DHNS

As lobbying for Congress ticket continues ahead of the bye-election to Davangere south Assembly constituency on April 9, a section of Muslim leaders of the party said on Wednesday that those seeking ticket for the community had failed to develop a strong rapport with voters of other communities in the constituency.

If they had developed a strong rapport with voters of other communities in general and backward classes in particular, the party high command would have considered their demand for the ticket, the leaders said.

So, the party was not keen on fielding a Muslim candidate from the constituency, which was represented by veteran Congress leader Shamanur Shivashankrappa four times in a row since 2008.

The constituency has fallen vacant following the demise of the veteran leader.

Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee legal cell organising secretary Anis Pasha told *DH*, "Our community leaders demand ticket during the polls and this has been a practice for the past several years. Instead, they should focus on developing a good rapport with voters of other communities in the constituency. But unfortunately, they have confined themselves to their family members and their colonies. They never made an attempt to go beyond the Muslim community".

He said there are 84,000 Muslim voters out of a total of 2,31,683 voters in Davangere south constituency.

MLC Abdul Jabbar, Syed Saifullah and other Muslim leaders are lobbying for the Congress ticket from Davangere South.

The party is likely to issue the ticket to a member of the Shamanur family, since it has a strong bond with the voters.

Most voters of the constituency belong to the labour class and many are employed in factories, hospitals or mills run by the Shamanur family.

State BJP president B Y Vijayendra told *DH* that the party had sent three names - B G Ajay Kumar, Yashavanth Rao Jadhav and Sreenivas Dasa Kariyappa - of probable candidates to the central leaders. They will take a call on the candidate, he said.

SAVING THE SPECIES

An Indian wolf named Geeta at Pilikula Biological Park in Mangaluru has given birth to seven pups – four males and three females (six seen in the photo). Pilikula Development Authority in-charge commissioner Dr Arun Kumar Shetty described the development as a major achievement in the zoo's conservation and captive breeding efforts. The mother and all seven pups are healthy and they have also been opened for public viewing, offering visitors a chance to observe the rare species closely.

State to revamp hiring...

KPSC, from Page 1

Gowda said the government will get KPSC to adopt the "best practices" of the Karnataka Examinations Authority (KEA). "The KEA does so many (recruitment) exams without malpractices. There is no problem with translation. The KEA has a bank of 2,000 questions," he said.

Gowda said that the KPSC is a constitutional autonomous body. "The government doesn't have total control over it. But it is the government that is answerable. They need not follow our directives. But the government will insist. We will explore all means to ensure that best practices are adopted," he said.

Speaker U T Khader agreed to the government's idea of forming a house committee to suggest further reforms at KPSC.

Airlines mandated to allocate...

60% flight seats, from Page 1

There should be strict adherence to the passenger rights framework, particularly in cases of delays, cancellations and denied boarding. Passenger rights should be prominently displayed across airline websites, mobile applications, booking platforms, and airport counters.

There should be clear communication of passenger entitlements in regional languages to ensure wider accessibility and awareness, it added.

Recalling that India has emerged as the third-largest domestic aviation market globally, with air travel becoming increasingly accessible and inclusive under the UDAN scheme, the ministry said it remains committed to enhancing the passenger experience, ensuring transparency, reducing grievances, and upholding the highest standards of safety across the aviation ecosystem.

Passenger facilitation remains the highest priority of the Ministry of Civil Aviation. In line with this commitment, the ministry has undertaken several passenger-centric initiatives to enhance ease of travel, including UDAN Yatri Cafes for affordable food, 'Flybrary' for free access to books and provision of free Wi-Fi at airports, the statement added.

Breach in TB left bank canal inundates paddy fields

KOPPAL, DHNS

Huge volumes of drinking water, meant to meet the needs of Koppal and Raichur districts, flooded nearby paddy fields following a breach in the Left Bank Main Canal between Basapur and Bandiharlapur villages in the taluk.

The breach was reported on the 13th mile of the canal on Tuesday night. The canal caved in due to the force of water release. The reservoir released water in the range of 200 cusec to 2,000 cusec in phases.

Huge quantity of water, meant to meet the drinking needs in Koppal and Raichur districts, go waste following a breach in Tungabhadra Left Bank Main Canal, near Basapur in Koppal taluk. DH PHOTO

The farmers of the region and BJP leaders alleged that the canal had developed a crack three to four months back, but the officials failed to take it seriously.

Huge quantity of water escaped from the breach has flooded over 100 acres of paddy fields and gushed into the resorts in the vicinity. The mud road near the canal has been washed away.

Meanwhile, the dam authorities have stopped water release into the canal on Tuesday night itself. The breach in the canal will be fixed in three to four days, the authorities said.

Chargesheet lays bare plan behind...

Prajwal Revanna, from Page 1

Devarajegowda, in a January 2024 press conference, threatened to publicly screen the "Rasaleele" (scandals), the chargesheet noted.

Harish SN (33)— Prajwal's auditor and accused 23 — was also part of the conspiracy, as he was miffed over the former MP and his family not getting him a government job.

Then came Naveen Gowda (34), accused 1, who on April 10, 2024, ran a "teaser campaign" on his Facebook account, attempting to titillate the public about "leak of Prajwal's videos" before deleting the posts to hide evidence.

He also posted #PenDrive, along with a cropped portrait of Prajwal.

On April 20, 2024, the accused gathered in Belur and executed their plan of distributing the pen drives. They had procured around 70 pen drives locally for Rs 13,500 at Ram Dev Mobile Communication and copied the obscene visuals into them.

To hide their identity, the accused decided to physically hand over the pen drives to staunch rivals of Prajwal and his family, while they decided to place other pen drives stealthily near offices of Bajarang Dal, the RSS and the BJP.

The pen drives were also strategically placed in public areas.

The chargesheet also noted that Nishanth MJ (47) and accused 22 invited a few other political leaders to his house "to watch the videos on his home television" and openly claimed that he had "Prajwal Revanna's videos".

Many of the accused named in the chargesheet were active in rival political factions of Prajwal, the chargesheet noted.

The chargesheet also revealed a detailed money trail between the accused to fund the operation. It further laid bare the concerted efforts, including the deliberate smashing of a mobile phone by Sumanth K, 24, (accused 24) and an attempt by 26-year-old Chethan YS (accused 6) to burn a pen drive in a water heater, towards the destruction of evidence.

Centre has assured support...

2nd airport, from Page 1

"Once the feasibility report is received, the state government will take a final call on the site for the second airport," Shivakumar told reporters here. He added that Naidu assured him that as soon as the state government recommends a site, the Ministry of Civil Aviation will expedite the entire approval process, including clearing all regulatory issues.

Minister for Science & Technology and Minor Irrigation N S Boseraju, Karnataka government's representative in Delhi T B Jayachandra, Raichur Congress MP Kumar Naik and Additional Chief Secretary Tushar Girinath were present during the meeting.

Shivakumar said he also requested Naidu to relax the height restrictions imposed on high-rise buildings around airports in Bengaluru, including Kempegowda International Airport, HAL Airport, the Air Force base at Yelahanka and the Jakkur Airfield.

He also said these are impacting the city's growth, urban planning and the ability to accommodate its expanding population and infrastructure needs.

"We have requested the Union Minister to relax these norms so that Bengaluru can be brought on par with other major cities like Mumbai and Hyderabad," he said.

"Because of the restrictions extending up to 20 km from HAL airport, we were forced to shift the Skydeck project from the proposed NGEF factory site near Baiyyappanahalli to Kempegowda Layout," he said.

"While the Union government asks states to introduce premium FAR, at the same time, it imposes severe restrictions on high-rise buildings. What is the use of premium FAR?" he asked.

Naidu assured the delegation that a joint meeting between the Union Ministries of Civil Aviation and Defence would be convened soon to resolve the issue.

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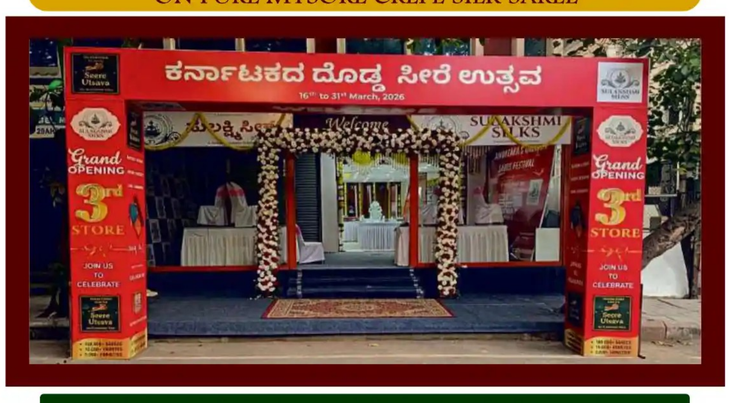

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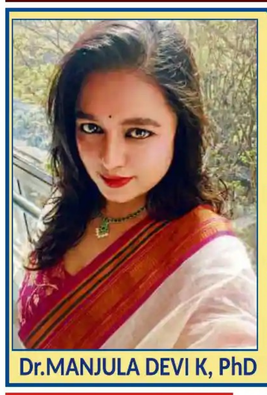

Dr.MANJULA DEVI K, PhD

Daughter of M.Kanaga Sabai and Smt.V.Padmavathy, and Selection Grade Lecturer in Commercial Practice Department at Government Polytechnic Chintamani, Karnataka, has been awarded the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Commerce by CMR University, Bangalore. Her research work titled "A STUDY ON OCCUPATIONAL STRESS AND ITS IMPACT AMONG EMPLOYEES WORKING IN PRIVATE INSURANCE COMPANIES IN KARNATAKA." was carried out under the guidance of Dr. Bhupendra Bahadur Tiwari, Professor and Director, School of Economics and Commerce, CMR University Bangalore, and research co-supervisor Dr. Musaib Ahmad Shariff. B.A Assistant Professor School of Economics and Commerce, CMR University Bangalore.
Best Wishes: Son-Rian, Brother-Gokul & Family.

PERSONAL

Change of Name

I, UDAY KUMAR R. #108, 1st Main, 3rd Cross, Vinayakanagar, Wilsongarden, Bengaluru-27, have changed my name to UDAY KUMAR. Vide affidavit dated- 18/03/2026

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Govt tables 171 answers for 199 questions

BENGALURU, DHNS: The government on Wednesday provided 171 answers against 199 questions raised by lawmakers in the Legislative Assembly on Wednesday.

This is a marked improvement from Monday, when 84 answers were tabled for 230 questions, prompting Speaker U T Khader to walk out in what was an unprecedented protest by a presiding officer. Earlier in the day, the government tabled 135 answers to 199 questions. The number rose to 171 by afternoon when Khader adjourned the House.

"Answers will have sanctity only if they are provided during the session, not after," he said.

Bill against 'honour' crimes tabled

BENGALURU, DHNS: The government introduced a Bill to prohibit 'honour' crimes in the Assembly on Wednesday. The Karnataka Freedom of Choice in Marriage and Prevention and Prohibition of Crimes in the name of Honour and Tradition (Eva Nammava Eva Nammava) Bill proposes a five-year jail term for people who cause death "in the name of honour". Causing hurt to a couple or either of them will face three years' jail.

The government also introduced the Karnataka Tax on Profession, Trades, Callings and Employments (Amendment) Bill. The Bill will exempt persons who have paid the full tax due for a year from filing annual returns. Further, enrolled persons who are exempt from profession tax, will also be relieved from the requirement of furnishing returns.

MLCs oppose tax on pets in municipal areas

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Legislative Council on Wednesday witnessed a detailed debate on the Karnataka Municipalities and Certain Other Laws (Amendment) Bill 2026, where members from both the governing and the opposition raised a few objections.

The BJP and the JD(S) members objected to some of the taxes imposed, including the pet (dog) tax.

Some members raised objections to the tax imposed on the advertisements displayed on private properties. They lashed out at the Congress government for imposing tax on private properties, including individual houses, if they allowed commercial advertisements on their premises.

Senior Congress MLC Thimmaiah asked, "I don't know why tax is being imposed on dogs?"

Urban Development Minister B S Suresha said, "The tax is on the company that advertises on that property and not the owner of the property."

The Council later passed the bill. The Upper House also passed the Karnataka Police (Amendment) Bill 2026.

Opposition wants KPSC re-exam, special team probe

Govt resists; says no fraud detected during verification

BENGALURU, DHNS

The Opposition BJP demanded on Wednesday a re-exam for the recruitment of 384 posts of gazetted probationers and a special investigation team (SIT) to probe allegations of irregularities.

The government, however, resisted these demands, saying no fraud had been detected during verification so far.

Suspicion of a scam was raised after the Karnataka Public Service Commission (KPSC) notified the list of candidates shortlisted for interviews. Candidates from the same exam centre, bearing consecutive serial numbers, were shortlisted. Also, there were allegations that members from the same families were shortlisted.

Revenue Minister Krishna Byre Gowda told the Assembly that no wrongdoing was found "based on what we know so far" on the allegation that 11 candidates from the same exam centre were shortlisted for interviews.

"Based on CCTV footage, nothing fraudulent was found. The KPSC got it verified and they've said there's nothing wrong," Gowda said.

Gowda also read out the names of candidates who were suspected of being family members. "Kavya R and Aishwarya R; Bhavya P and Tanuja P; Pavitra R, Lakshmi R and Niharika R; Nikita M Hiremath, Ajaykumar M Hiremath and Akshata Hiremath -- all of them have the same initials and last name. But none belong to the same family," he said. "In fact, they're from different districts."

Senior BJP lawmaker S Suresh Kumar sought a re-exam. "These 11 people... what's their academic background? If this is checked, we'll know if allegations are true or false," he said.

Leader of the Opposition R Ashoka asked the government to constitute an SIT. "Don't we, as lawmakers, face probes? Why shouldn't these (KPSC) people? We should make them feel the fear of law," he said.

Gowda, however, said holding a re-exam "based on suspicion involving 11 people" would mean bad news for 5,500 job aspirants, who wrote the main exam. "A re-exam means they'll ask for age relaxation. The whole thing will take another two years," he said.

Assuaging the Opposition's concerns, Gowda said further verification will be done on the allegations. "The exam will be annulled if any wrongdoing is found," he said. On the SIT demand, the government said a probe will be done if any specific instance of fraud is detected.

IAS officer under fire

BJP lawmaker S Suresh Kumar asked the government to transfer KPSC Controller of Examinations Gyanendra Kumar Gangwar, a 2016-batch IAS officer.

"The needle of suspicion is towards him. The controller of exams is under nobody's control. He's been there even as four KPSC secretaries were transferred. Gangwar must be shifted out," Kumar said. He even called for the impeachment of KPSC members.

Hailstorm, gusty winds batter many parts of Karnataka

BENGALURU, DHNS

Intense and sudden hailstorm, accompanied with thunder activity and gusty winds, lashed many parts of north and south interior Karnataka causing widespread damage to crops, houses, on Wednesday.

Thundershowers lashed many parts of the old Mysuru region on Wednesday evening, bringing much-needed respite from sweltering heat. The thunderstorm also caused damage to crops in Chamarajanagar, where banana, mango and vegetables on over 300 hectares were destroyed.

Students of Dasanapur government lower primary school had a close shave after the tiled roof of the school was blown away by strong winds. Alert teachers had moved the students to safety after the skies opened up.

Incidents of tree falls and uprooting of electricity poles were reported at several places in Chamarajanagar district.

Many parts of Hassan, including Arkalgud, Javagal and Halebid, experienced the first showers of the season.

The Tuesday evening hailstorm has left a trail of destruction in Dharwad, Belagavi and undivided Ballari districts. The farmers of Machapur in Kalghatagi taluk, which was swathed in a white carpet following a spell of intense hailstorm, are staring at massive losses due to the damage caused to the ready-for-harvest crops, including tomato and bitter gourd. Tiled roofs of dozens of houses were damaged due to sudden and intense lashing of hailstones.

We have lost the ready-for-harvest tomato and bitter gourd. Crops in several fields have vanished in a jiffy. The farmers have incurred heavy losses in one spell of rain. Don't know what to do, Basavanthappa Hurkadli, a farmer of Machapur, pours out his woes to *DH*.

Sudden showers catch commuters off guard in Mysuru on Wednesday. DH PHOTOS

Intense hailstorm causes extensive damage to sugarcane crop at Machapur in Kalghatagi taluk, Dharwad district.

Thundershowers and winds flatten a banana plantation at Tambralli in Hagaribommanahalli taluk of Vijayanagar district.

Paddy crop lost

The story of Ballari and Vijayanagara farmers is no different. Paddy crop on a vast tract of land has been destroyed in Ballari district. In Kurugodu taluk alone, paddy on 24 hectares has perished. The officials of Revenue and Agriculture departments have taken up a joint survey to assess the extent of crop damage, a source in Ballari district administration told *DH*.

In Hagaribommanahalli taluk, thundershowers on Tuesday evening razed acres of banana plantation.

A total of 33 sheep have perished in hailstorm at Sankeshwar in Hukkeri taluk of Belagavi district.

Hailstorm lashed Kalaburagi and Yadgir districts of Kalyana Karnataka. Gusty winds caused mangoes to drop from trees in Yadgir district. The farmers of Chincholi have suffered extensive damage to jowar, chia and onion crops.

A spell of hailstorm has left the coffee growers of Chikkamagaluru worried. They fear the drop of flowers due to unseasonal rain would adversely impact the yield.

Several parts of Chitradurga and Davangere continued to experience hailstorms on Wednesday.

Caste, income certificates on phones soon

BENGALURU, DHNS: Citizens will soon be able to access their income and caste certificates on their mobile phones, Revenue Minister Krishna Byregowda informed the Legislative Council on Wednesday.

Replying to a question by Congress' Abdul Jabbar, the minister said the government was working towards automating the process of issuing caste and income certificates using data from the Kutumba portal. "Those applying for certificates will receive updates on their phones, and even be able to download certificates, which they can then take a printout of," said Krishna Byregowda.

As many as 1.15 crore applications were submitted seeking income and caste certificates in the past year, he said. "Of these, 99.91 lakh applications were cleared on time. Delay was reported in only 1.1% of the cases. Original documents are being digitised, and so far, we have scanned 74 crore pages," he said. Jabbar, however, sought to know why caste certificates could not be issued based on applicant's name. "My name clearly indicates caste or community I belong to. Why can't a certificate be issued using this information," asked Jabbar.

Byregowda said, "We cannot issue caste certificates using only applicant's name. If we were to permit our staff to do that, they will do it as per their will".

The minister said the revenue department did not have discretionary powers to frame rules on issuance of certificates. "We follow rules laid down by departments concerned," he said.

Govt plans ban on DJs, item songs at cultural events

Lad raises issue; Suresh Kumar bats for DJ ban

Minister Santosh Lad

BENGALURU, DHNS

The state government is in favour of banning disc jockeys (DJ) who play blaring music and "item songs" at cultural events and religious processions, Kannada and Culture Minister Shivaraj Tangadagi told the Assembly on Wednesday.

The issue was raised by Labour Minister Santosh Lad, who sought a ban on DJs.

"In all jayantis, DJs have become a big problem. We must discuss this. In any jayanti, our Gods won't move forward (in a procession) without a DJ and an item song. This is shameful. DJs and item songs won't do any good for culture," Lad said.

Replying to this, Tangadagi said, "We will issue an order on this. A lot of problems are caused by DJs."

The minister also sought cooperation from the BJP to ban DJs. "If all of them (BJP) agree, we must ban DJs," he said.

Shimoga BJP MLA S N Channabasappa, however, was not onboard with the idea. "They may not want (DJs), but we do. You should ban Azaan as per a Supreme Court order. Will you do it?" he said. Speaker U T Khader intervened and said the Supreme Court had fixed decibel levels. "All governments must follow that," Khader said.

Senior BJP lawmaker S Suresh Kumar backed the plan to ban DJs. "I've seen people with a pacemaker in their hearts suffer from the sound of DJs. I've seen children close their ears. Even the police are helpless. We must seriously consider the sound pollution due to DJs," Kumar said.

The discussion on DJs emerged from Channabasappa seeking government funds to organise Sahyadri Utvasa or Malnad Utsava regularly. BJP's Janardhana Reddy also asked the government to restart the Anegundi Utsava in Koppal.

Tangadagi said all districts want their own utsavas, or festivals. "This has become a big problem for us," he said. "An utsava must be tied to the history of a place. Dasara was confined to Mysuru, Madikeri and Chamarajanagar. Later, Shivamogga was added," he said.

Khader felt every district should have its own utsava. "This encourages local cultures and traditions. Otherwise, our children will forget all that," he said.

BJP's V Sunil Kumar asked the government to come out with a policy to organise regular district-wise or regional utsavas.

IT/BT Minister Priyank Kharge said the state should have year-long fests. "They mustn't be only cultural events, but also create economic activities to help local artists," he said. "We spend Rs 20 crore on a two-day festival. What about the remaining 363 days?"

Lad said Utsavas cost crores of rupees because singers from other states are invited to perform. "Without singers and item songs, people won't come," he said.

Karnataka has 3,025 slums, 40.50L people live in them: Zameer

BENGALURU, DHNS: As many as 40.50 lakh people are living in 3,025 slums across the state, Housing Minister Zameer Ahmed Khan told Legislative Council on Wednesday.

Zameer Ahmed Khan

Bengaluru Urban has highest number of slums at 435 with 15.36 lakh people living in them, Khan said and added: "At least Rs 500 crore is needed for the development of slums."

"I have requested the chief minister to allocate funds for development of slums in the supplementary budget. We need Rs 500 crore to develop the slums across the state," Khan informed the House.

He was replying to a question by Congress MLC K Govindaraj and revealed that of the 3,025 slums, 2,866 were declared and 159 were identified slums.

As per the data, Belagavi has 252 slums, which is second highest, followed by Kalaburagi - 149, Dharwad - 138, Vijayapura - 132 and Tumakuru - 130.

Interestingly, Kodagu has very few slums at 10, followed by Udupi - 17, Dakshina Kannada - 26, Bengaluru Rural (now North) - 33 and Chikkaballapur - 46.

Assistant drug controller, 2 others arrested in bribery case

KOLAR, DHNS: The Lokayukta sleuths arrested an assistant drug controller, her personal vehicle driver and a Group D employee in a bribery case on Tuesday night.

Assistant drug controller J Shyamala, Group D staff Srinivas and driver Mahantesh were caught red-handed while accepting a bribe amount of Rs 35,000 to issue a licence to a pharmacist for shifting his medical store to a different premises at Tekal.

The pharmacist lodged a complaint with the Lokayukta police after the officer sought a bribe of Rs 35,000 to accord permission for shifting.

The Lokayukta team, led by Lokayukta SP Antony John, conducted a raid when the officer was accepting the bribe.

Commercial cylinders: Minister to meet hoteliers

BENGALURU, DHNS: Amid mounting concerns over inadequate supply of commercial LPG cylinders, the government announced that steps would be taken to address the problem next week.

Minister for Food and Civil Supplies Minister K H Muniyappa informed the Council that he would convene a meeting with hoteliers on Monday to deliberate on the distribution of cylinders. "We will procure all commercial cylinders, and once we have enough to supply 15,000 a day, a meeting will be convened with hoteliers," said the minister.

But Muniyappa once again called on hoteliers to manage the show with electric stoves and alternative fuels for another week. "Karnataka needs 44,000 commercial cylinders a day, and as of now, we can only distribute 9,000 per day. Of these, 4,200 are being supplied to hospitals, hostels and schools on priority," he said.

A further 1,200 are supplied to government institutions, railway and bus stations, Nandini and Indira canteens, while around 8% is distributed to agricultural, pharmaceutical and food industries. "The Centre is trying its best to bridge supply gap," said Muniyappa.

Israel says Iran intel minister Khatib killed

Iran, from Page 1

Israel has also vowed to hunt down Iran's new supreme leader, Mojtaba Khamenei, who has not appeared in public since he succeeded his father.

Large crowds gathered in central Tehran on Wednesday for the funerals of Larijani and Gholamreza Soleimani, the head of the Basij paramilitary force who was also killed in a strike in Iran this week, according to images broadcast by Iranian state television.

They were held alongside the funerals of more than 80 Iranian sailors killed in a US torpedoing of their frigate off Sri Lanka earlier this month.

Trucks carrying coffins draped in Iranian flags moved through the procession, as mourners walked alongside carrying portraits of the slain supreme leader and beating their chests, a sign of mourning in Shia culture.

In contrast to Mojtaba Khamenei, Larijani (68), had walked openly with crowds at a pro-government rally last week in Tehran.

He had "effectively been the figure in charge of the regime's survival, its regional policy and its defence strategy," David Khalfa, co-founder of the Atlantic Middle East Forum, told AFP.

Israel has pursued what analysts have described as a policy of decapitation against Iran and the militant movements it backs in the region.

It killed Hassan Nasrallah, the longtime leader of Hezbollah, in 2024 as well Hamas's top figures since the Palestinian group's October 7, 2023 attack that sparked the Gaza war.

Despite losing its supreme leader of nearly four decades and now Larijani, a key pillar of the Islamic republic, the powerful Revolutionary Guards and the leadership as a whole have remained defiant.

US intelligence chief Tulsi Gabbard to a senate hearing that Washington "assesses the regime in Iran to be intact but largely degraded due to attacks on its leadership and military capabilities".

The Guards, the ideological arm of the military, said they had launched missiles at central Israel in retaliation for Larijani's death and warned of more to come.

The "pure blood of this great martyr... will be a source of honour, power and national awakening against front of global arrogance," they said.

◆ WEATHER ◆

Overview: Dry weather prevailed over Coastal Karnataka, South Interior Karnataka and North Interior Karnataka

Forecast March 19: Dry weather likely to prevail over the state.

INTERIOR NORTH			
Stations	Max	Min	Rain
Belagavi	33.4	17	5.4
Bidar	34	16	53.4
Vijayapura	36	16	6.2
Dharwad	34	16	4.6
Haveri	NA	17.8	8.2
Kalaburagi	37.4	17.2	15.6
Raichur	35.4	20	00
COASTAL			
Honnavar	32.2	21.9	00
Karwar	34.2	22.6	00
Shirali	NA	NA	NA
Mangaluru	33.6	24.1	00

INTERIOR SOUTH			
Stations	Max	Min	Rain
Agumbe	31.4	18.1	00
Bengaluru	32.3	20.5	1.8
Ballari	NA	NA	NA
Chamarajanagar	NA	NA	NA
Chikkamagaluru	NA	NA	NA
Chitradurga	32.8	16.6	17.6
Davangere	33	17	01
Hassan	33.8	13.9	00
Mysuru	33.8	16.2	30
Madikeri	NA	NA	NA
Kolar	32.4	19.4	00
OTHER STATIONS			
New Delhi	31.6	18	00
Kolkata	32.8	24.5	00
Mumbai	31.1	21.3	00
Chennai	34.5	25.2	00
Pune	35.7	18.5	00
Hyderabad	34.7	18.5	00
Th'puram	34.3	25.3	00

Rs 33k-cr industrial clusters plan...

Industrial, from Page 1

The scheme will run for six years beginning 2026-27.

The government targets to develop around 34,000 acres of investment-ready, plug-and-play industrial facilities at competitive rates through this initiative.

"By enabling cluster-based development and co-location of industries, suppliers and support services, BHAVYA will strengthen supply chains, reduce costs and foster vibrant industrial ecosystems across regions," Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal said in a post on X.

According to Goyal, BHAVYA is a Central Sector Scheme. It seeks to build next-generation industrial infrastructure, boost ease of doing business through reforms and plug-and-play ecosystems; create future-ready, sustainable and efficient industrial parks and drive investment, employment and stronger industrial ecosystems.

"The scheme will extend to all states and Union Territories, creating lakhs of employment opportunities across the country and accelerating industrial growth nationwide," the Ministry of Commerce & Industry said in a statement.

Manufacturing units, MSMEs, startups, and global investors seeking ready-to-use industrial infrastructure are targeted to be the primary beneficiaries of the scheme.

The scheme is also likely to benefit workers, logistics providers, service sector enterprises and local communities.

The National Industrial Corridor Development Corporation Ltd (NICDC), under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, will be the nodal agency for implementation of the scheme.

According to an official statement released after the Cabinet meeting, the BHAVYA scheme has been formulated by building on the success of Industrial Smart Cities developed under the National Industrial Corridor Development Programme (NICDP) framework.

The NICDC-led initiatives are built on the concept of plug-and-play industrial parks — ready-to-use ecosystems where land, utilities, approvals and infrastructure are pre-developed, enabling industries to start operations quickly without delays related to land acquisition or infrastructure setup. The NICDC is currently implementing 20 projects across 13 states.

NORTH WESTERN KARNATAKA ROAD TRANSPORT CORPORATION, CENTRAL OFFICES, HUBBALLI

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION NO.15/2025-26 DATE:18-03-2026

Through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal (KPPP)

Tenders are invited from the interested bidders for procurement of the materials as shown below:-

Sl. No.	Description of the tender	Tender Value (Approx.)
1	Supply, installation, testing and commissioning of the CCTV Camera Systems in the buses of NWKRTC.	Rs. **1.98** Cr.

Last date and time for submission of bids is **26-03-2026** till 17.30 Hrs.

For details visit website :**http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** Or Contact Mobile Phone No. **7022009113**.

Sd/- Controller of Stores & Purchases, (Tender Inviting Authority)

DIPR/Dharwad/KSMCA/1368/2025-26

BANGALORE WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE BOARD

INVITATION FOR TENDER
(only through KPP-Portal)

BWSSB invites Tenders from Registered Contractors for the following works.

Office of the Chief Engineer (UWP), 5th Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K.G.Road, Bengaluru-560 009

Division	IFT Number	Amount put to Tender / EMD Amount	Last date & time for Submission of Tender	Date & Time for Opening of Tender
(WWM-P) V.Vally	BWSSB/EE (WWM-P)V.V/AEE-2/ AE/07/ 2365/2025-26 Date: 13.03.2026 Call-3	Rs. 21,97,000/- / Rs. 50,000/-	27.03.2026 Upto 5.00 P.M.	30.03.2026 at 5.15 P.M.

Sd/- Executive Engineer (WWM-P) V.Valley

The details regarding the tender & participation in the e-Procurement portal process can be obtained by logging on to **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** For further details contact the above signed office during working hours.

DIPR/DD-C.P/6338/KSMCA/2025-26

Minority Welfare Department kolar District

Phone : 08152-295257

Date: 16.03.2026

Tender Notification

The District Officer, Minority Welfare Department, Kolar, hereby invites Technical & Commercial Bids from eligible bidders for supply of perishable and non-perishable food materials etc., to the Pre-Metric, Post-Metric Hostels, Dr APJ Schools and MMDRS Schools/Colleges located in Kolar District, Karnataka, through Public Procurement Portal of Government of Karnataka **(https://kppp. karnataka.gov.in).**Interested eligible Bidders can participate in the Tender through **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**. Approximate Amount put to tender: **Rs. 3,64,00,000 Lakh.** EMD Amount: **Rs. 5,46,000/-.** Start date for submission of tender application: **16.03.2026.** Last date to submit: **15.04.2026, 5.00 p.m.**

Sd/- District Officer, Minority welfare department, kolar District

DIPR/KOLAR/RO:541/KSMCA/2025-26

Directorate of Medical Education

BMC&RI (Old Building), 1st Floor, Fort, K.R. Road, Bengaluru - 560002. Phone: 080-22870060 Fax: 080-22875798 E-mail: dmekarnataka@yahoo.com

No: ME/Tender/23/2025-26 **Date: 17-03-2026**

E-TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Two Cover System) (Through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal)

Tenders are invited for the **Purchase of Medical Equipments to Kidwai Medical Institute of Oncology, Bengaluru.** Tender Document and E.M.D., details can be viewed, downloaded and applied only through the KPP Portal. Interested tenderers have to register in the KPP Portal, details of which can be viewed in the Website:**https://www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

Commencement date for Uploading of Tenders Dt: 18-03-2026

Pre-Bid Meeting Dt: 26-03-2026 at 11.30 AM

Last date for Uploading the Tenders Dt: 21-04-2026 before 5.00 PM

Date of Opening of Technical Bid Dt: 23-04-2026 at 11.30 AM

For further details contact **Director of Medical Education, BMC&RI (Old Building), 1st Floor, Fort, K.R. Road, Bengaluru - 560002.**

DIPR/CP/6331/Adverto/2025-26

Sd/- Director Director of Medical Education, Bengaluru.

Government of Karnataka Department Of Health and Family Welfare

OFFICE OF THE HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE DEPARTMENT, VIJAYANAGAR DIST
E-mail: dhovijayanagara21@gmail.com
Telephone: 08394-227040

No: DHO/Tender Notification/DH/04/2025-26 **Date:18-03-2026**

SHORT TERM RE-TENDER NOTIFICATION

District Health and Family Welfare Officer Vijayanagar inviting short term Re-tender for Providing Various Medical and allied equipment's required for **O.B.G, ORTHOPEDIC, OPTHALMOLOGY, DENTAL & ENT**Department for New 250 Bedded District Hospital of Hosapete under 2024-25 KKRDB fund through e-procurement **(https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in)** portal. (Amount to Put to Tender Rs.141.99Lakhs)**(INDENT NUMBER:DHFWS/2025-26/IND2112/Call-2)**

Interested eligible Tenderers can upload the document between date:24-03-2026 to date: 08-04-2026 time up to 05:00 pm.

For more information tenderers may contact the office phone number :08394-227040 or in persons during office hours.

Sd/-District health and Family Welfare Officer Vijayanagar

DIPR/Vijayanagar/2025-26/KSMCA/RO No/603

ಚಿಕ್ಕಬಳ್ಳಾಪುರ ನಗರಾಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರ

CHIKKABALLAPURA URBAN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY.

ಸಿಟ್ರಸ್ ಸಿಟಿ ಮೇಡೋಸ್, 4ನೇ ಸೆಕ್ಟರ್, ತುಮಕಲಹಳ್ಳಿ ಗ್ರಾಮ, ಚಿಕ್ಕಬಳ್ಳಾಪುರ–562103. Sitrus City Meadows, 4th Sector, Tumakalahalli Village, B.B.Road, Chikkaballapur-562 103. Email ID:cuda.cbpur@gmail.com ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:08156–274701.

ಸಂ:ಚಿ.ನ.ಅ.ಪ್ರಾ/Tender/03/2025-26 DATE: 17.03.2026

Invitation for Tender
(For Lake Works –As per standard Bid Document KW 4 in two cover system.)

(1) The Commissioner, Chikkaballapur Urban Development Authority Invites Tenders from the eligible tenderers, for the construction of lake works detailed in the table below in Two cover document procedures as per KTPP rules 2000 shall be followed. **(2)** Tender documents may be downloaded from Government of Karnataka e-procurment website http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in **(3)** Tenders must be electronically submitted in e-procurement portal. **(4)** Further information, if required, can be obtained from the office of the Commissioner, Chikkaballapur Urban Development Authority during working hours **(5)** Head of account: Lake development Cess. **(1)** Pre-bid meeting on **24.03.2026, 12:00 AM (2)** submission of queries **24.03.2026, 12.00 AM (3)** Last date & Time for receipt of tenders: **01.04.2026 05:30 PM (4)** Date & Time for opening of Technical bid**: 04.04.2026, 11:00 AM (5)** Date & Time for opening of Financial bid: 04.04.2026, 04:00 PM or later. **Name of work: (1)** Development of Lake Bund, Entrance Arch and Toilets in Chitravathi Park by CUDA. (CKBUDA/2025-26/OW/WORK_INDENT1/CALL-2). (Amount put to tender Rs.3,84,09,508.33). In case of Any change in calendar of events, it will be published in e-procurement portal only. No separate paper notification will be given.

Sd/- Commissioner,Chikkaballapur Urban Development Authority, Chikkaballapur

DIPR/CHIKKABALLAPURA/RO:498/KSMCA/2025-26

RAICHUR URBAN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY, RAICHUR

No: RUDA/TECH/CA/ALLOT/12/2025-26/ 1311 DATE:17-03-2026

Time Extended Notification for Civic Amenity Sites Allotment:

Karnataka Urban Development Authorities (Civic Amenities Allotment) Rules 1991 U/s 3(3)

The Raichur Urban Development Authority has invited applications for allotment of CivicAmenity Siteson on the basis of 30 years Lease Agreement available in the approved private layouts of its project area to Central Government / State Government Organizations, Aided Government Organizations and Eligible Trusts/Societies/ Organizations with last date of application submission on 11-03-2026 and some official circumstances the last date is extended for inviting the application.

● The prescribed application form can be obtained at the office of the authority by payment of Rs.1,000/- The completed application form should be submitted to the Commissioner, Raichur Urban Development Authority, Raichur on or before Date: 25-03-2026 at 05-30 pm. Subsequent applications or applications that have not been filled properly will be rejected without consideration. ● Further information / details can be made to the Office of the Authority during office hours and has been published to the Index.

Sd/- Commissioner, Urban Development Authority, Raichur. **Sd/- Chairman, Urban Development Authority, Raichur.**

DIP/RCR/773/KSMCA/776/2025-26

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ

ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರ್‌ರವರ ಕಛೇರಿ, ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ, ಇಲಾಖೆ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಮಂಡ್ಯ

ಸಂ: 32/2025–2026 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 16–03–2026

ಮಂಡ್ಯ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಯ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗಾಗಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

ಐಟಂವಾರು ದರದ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಾಗಿ ಅರ್ಹ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಂದ ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ KW–1/2/3/4 ರ ರೀತಿ ದ್ವಿಲಕೋಟೆ ಪದ್ಧತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಅರ್ಹ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರು ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಯ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಾಗಿ ಭಾಗವಹಿಸಬಹುದು. ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪೂರ್ವಭಾವಿ ಸಭೆಯನ್ನು ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರ್, ರವರ ಕಛೇರಿ ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ, ವಿಭಾಗ ಮಂಡ್ಯ, ರವರ ಕಛೇರಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 20–03–2026 ರಂದು ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 11–00 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ ಕರೆಯಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಟೆಂಡರ್ ದಾಖಲಾತಿಗಳನ್ನು ದಿನಾಂಕ 17–03–2026 ರಿಂದ ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ಮೂಲಕ ಡೌನ್‌ಲೋಡ್ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಳ್ಳಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ. ಟೆಂಡರ್ ವಿಚಾರಣೆ ದಿನಾಂಕ; 25–03–2026 ಸಂಜೆ 5.30 ಘಂಟೆವರೆಗೆ, ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 26–03–2026 ಸಂಜೆ 4.30 ಘಂಟೆವರೆಗೆ, ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ 27–03–2026 ಸಂಜೆ 4.31 ಗಂಟೆ ನಂತರ ಅಥವಾ ನಂತರದ ಕೆಲಸದ ದಿನಗಳು, ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 30–03–2026 ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 11.00 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ ಅಥವಾ ನಂತರದ ಕೆಲಸದ ದಿನಗಳು. ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕ್ರಿಯೆ ಬೆಲೆ ಇ–ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ರಂತೆ. ಕಾಲಮಿತಿ: ಮಳೆಗಾಲ ಸೇರಿ 2/4/12 ತಿಂಗಳು, ಒಟ್ಟು 22 (ಇಪ್ಪತ್ತೆರಡು) ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ, ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳ ಪೈಕಿ ಗರಿಷ್ಠ ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ.140.00 ಲಕ್ಷಗಳು ಕನಿಷ್ಠ ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ.3.00 ಲಕ್ಷಗಳು ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ. ಬೆಲೆ ಇ–ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ರಂತೆ, ಕೆಲಸಗಳ ವಿವರ, ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ, ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ., ಮೊತ್ತ ಮುಂತಾದ ಮಾಹಿತಿಗಳನ್ನು ಸದರಿ ಕಛೇರಿಯಿಂದ ಕಛೇರಿ ವೇಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದು. ಟಿಪ್ಪಣಿ:– (1) ಈ ಕೆಳಗೆ ಸಹಿ ಮಾಡಿರುವವರು ಯಾವುದೇ ಕಾರಣಗಳನ್ನು ನೀಡದೆ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕ್ರಿಯೆಯ ಮುಂದೂಡುವಿಕೆ /ಸಂಪೂರ್ಣವಾಗಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ರದ್ದುಗೊಳಿಸುವ / ಟೆಂಡರ್ ನಿರಾಕರಿಸುವ ಹಕ್ಕನ್ನು ಹೊಂದಿರುತ್ತಾರೆ. (2) ಇನ್ನು ಮುಂದೆ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕ್ರಿಯೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಯಾವುದೇ ಬದಲಾವಣೆಗಳು ಇದ್ದಲ್ಲಿ ದಿನ ಪತ್ರಿಕೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಪ್ರಕಟಿಸಲಾಗುವುದಿಲ್ಲ, ಬದಲಾಗಿ ವಿದ್ಯುನ್ಮಾನ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣೆ ವೇದಿಕೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಮಾತ್ರ ಬದಲಾವಣೆಗಳನ್ನು ಪ್ರಕಟಿಸಲಾಗುವುದು.

ಸಹಿ/–ಕಾ.ಇಂ.,ಲೋ.ಇ.,ವಿಭಾಗ, ಮಂಡ್ಯ

ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ ವಿಶ್ವವಿದ್ಯಾನಿಲಯ

ವಿಶ್ವವಿದ್ಯಾನಿಲಯ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಲಯ, ಶಿವಗಂಗೋತ್ರಿ, ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ–577007.

ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:ದಾವಿಃಅಭಿ:355/2025–26/5459 ದಿನಾಂಕಃ 16.03.2026

ಇ–ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ ವಿಶ್ವವಿದ್ಯಾನಿಲಯದ ಸ್ನಾತಕೋತ್ತರ ಸೂಕ್ಷ್ಮ ಜೀವಶಾಸ್ತ್ರ ಅಧ್ಯಯನ ವಿಭಾಗಕ್ಕೆ VGST ಪ್ರಾಯೋಜಿತ ಯೋಜನೆಗೆ ಅಗತ್ಯವಿರುವ ವೈಜ್ಞಾನಿಕ ಉಪಕರಣಗಳನ್ನು ಖರೀದಿಸುವ ಸಲುವಾಗಿ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಪಾರದರ್ಶಕ (ಕೆ.ಟಿ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ) ಅಧಿನಿಯಮ 1999, ನಿಯಮಗಳು 2000ರ ಪ್ರಕಾರ E-Portal Tender ಮೂಲಕ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ.

Tender Name: Supply For Scientific Equipments For Department of Studies in Microbiology

Tender No: DU/2025-26/IND0036

ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಫಾರಂ ಅಪ್‌ಲೋಡ್ ಮಾಡಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 10.04.2026

ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿಗಾಗಿ website:-www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in ಕುಲಸಚಿವರು, ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ ವಿಶ್ವವಿದ್ಯಾನಿಲಯ, ಶಿವಗಂಗೋತ್ರಿ, ದೂ.ಸಂ:08192–208029 ಇಲ್ಲಿ ಕಛೇರಿ ವೇಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸುವುದು. ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ

ಪಾಸಾಇ/ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ/831/ ಕೆಎಸ್ಎಂಸಿಎ/2025–26

ಸಹಿ/– ಕುಲಸಚಿವರು, ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ ವಿಶ್ವವಿದ್ಯಾನಿಲಯ, ಶಿವಗಂಗೋತ್ರಿ, ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ.

Karnataka Urban Infrastructure Development and Finance Corporation Ltd. (KUIDFC)

(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)

#22, 17th 'F' Cross, Nagarabhivriddhi Bhavan, Old Madras Road, Indiranagar 2nd Stage, Near BMTC Bus Depot, Bengaluru-560 038. Phone: +91-80-25196124 Website: www.kuidfc.com

No: KUIDFC/AHR/NB/HVAC -CAMC/2025-26 **Date:18. 03.2026**

Short Term e-Tender Notification (Call-02)

KUIDFC invites tender for following service from the eligible bidders. The tender document will be available on KPP portal of GoK https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in

SN	Name of Work	Earnest Money Deposit in Rs.
1	Providing Comprehensive AMC of HVAC (Heat Ventilation and Air – Conditioning) System for 3 years at Nagarabhivruddhi Bavana KUIDFC.	50,000/-

1) Tender Publish Date: **18.03.2026.** 2) Pre-bid meeting Date & Time: **23.03.2026 Time: 11.30 AM.** 3) Last Date & Time for Bid submission: **02.04.2026 Time: 5.30 PM.** 4) Date & Time of Opening of Technical bid: **04.04.2026 Time: 11.30 AM.** 5) Date & Time of Opening of Financial bid: **08.04.2026 Time: 11.30 AM.**

Interested bidders may view, download & upload the tenders only through KPP portal. Any further notification will be through KPP portal and KUIDFC official website only.

Sd/- Deputy General Manager (ADMN) KUIDFC-Bengaluru

DIPR/CP/6335/MAA/2025-26

BANGALORE MYSORE INFRASTRUCTURE CORRIDOR AREA PLANNING AUTHORITY

No.5, 2nd Floor, Looplane, Race Course Road, Bangalore - 560 009. **Tel**: 080-22341230/35, **E-mail** : bmicapa@gmail.com

No: BMICAPA/CLU-03/25/2022-23/2852 **Date : 18.03.2026**

PUBLICATION

[UNDER SEC 14(A) OF KTCP ACT, 1961]

Sri HD Ramesh S/o Late Doddiregowda has applied to this Authority seeking Change of land use from"Agriculture" Zone to "Residential" purpose pertaining to Sy.No:163/4extent of 0Acre-22Guntas, of Hampapura Village, Kasaba Hobli, Srirangapatna Taluk under Sec 14(A) of KTCP Act 1961. The foresaid lands are reserved for **Agriculture zone** in approved Master plan. Applicant has stated that the change of land use sought is in the interest of public by quoting the following;

1. If this land is developed and layout formed, sites will be available at reasonable rates to General Public.

2. At the time of carving and designing the Layout, there will be job opportunities to labourers.

3. If this land is developed, then the surrounding area will also get developed.

4. If the development of layout takes place, good road, Civic amenities sites and UGD, Electrification & parks etc, will be available for General Public.

Objections, if any, are invited from the public, any person may file his/her objection to Member Secretary, BMICAPA, Bengaluru in writing to the above address mentioned in this publication within 15 days from this notice. Any objections received after stipulated time will not be considered.

DIPR/CP/6359/NR/2025-26

Sd/- Member Secretary, BMICAPA, Bangalore.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Our client ('Client') is desirous of entering into a sale transaction in connection with the immovable properties morefully described in the 'Schedule' hereunder and is hereinafter referred to as the 'Schedule Properties' with Mrs. Girija Ramegowda, wife of Late Ramegowda, residing at Bengaluru ('Owner'). The Owner has represented to our Client that the Owner is the sole and absolute owner of the Schedule Properties, with unrestricted rights of alienation over the same.

Notice is hereby given to the general public that any person/s other than the Owner, asserting any right, title, charge, lien, claim/s or any interest whatsoever in respect of the Schedule Properties is/ are hereby called upon to submit to the undersigned, their claim/s, if any, over the Schedule Properties or their objections, if any, to the aforementioned sale transaction. The said claim/s or objections must be in writing, together with documentary proof of such claim/s or objections, so as to reach us at the address given below within a period of 15 (fifteen) days from the date of publication of this Notice. If no such claim/s or objections are received within the said period of 15 (fifteen) days, it shall be deemed that no one else other than the Owner has/ have any right, title, charge, lien, claim/s or any interest whatsoever in respect of the Schedule Properties. Further any claims or alleged interests, if any, which are not received within the said period of 15 (fifteen) days shall be deemed to have been consciously waived and disregarded for all intents and purposes and shall thereafter not be binding on our Client and our Client would be at liberty to proceed with the said sale transaction in connection with the Schedule Properties.

SCHEDULE
(Description of the Schedule Properties)

All that piece and parcel of immovable properties being agricultural lands and measuring in total 06 Acres 39 Guntas/28,226.81 Square Metres, all situated at Sarjapura Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore Urban District and described in the table below:

THINDLU VILLAGE

Sl No.	Survey No./ E-Khata No.	Extent	Boundaries
1.	122/3/ 1502001022001 24698	10,521.82 Square Metres/02 Acres 24 Guntas	East by : Properties bearing Survey Nos. 122/1 and 122/2; West by : Properties bearing Survey Nos. 308/2 and 308/3 of Sarjapur Village; North by : Property bearing Survey No. 123/2; and South by : Bagalur Road- Bangalore Main Road.
2.	123/2/15020010 2200124700	3,136.31 Square Metres/31 Guntas	East by : Remaining portion of property bearing Survey No. 123/2; West by : Property bearing Survey No. 308/2; North by : Property bearing Survey No. 123/1; and South by : Property bearing Survey No. 122/1.

SARJAPURA VILLAGE

Sl No.	Survey No./ E-Khata No.	Extent	Boundaries
1.	308/2/15020010 2300122804	6,373.80 Square Meters/ 01 Acre 23 Guntas	East by : Properties bearing Survey Nos. 122/1 and 123/2 of Thindlu Village; West by : Property bearing Survey No. 309; North by : Property bearing Survey No. 308/1; and South by : Property bearing Survey No. 308/3.
2.	308/3/15020010 2300122802	8,194.88 Square Meters/ 02 Acres 01 Gunta	East by : Property bearing Survey No. 122/1; West by : Property bearing Survey No. 309/3; North by : Property bearing Survey No. 308/2;and South by : Bagalur-Bangalore Main Road.

Date: 19.03.2026
Place: Bengaluru

Ms. Brijita Prakash, Partner
J. Sagar Associates,
Advocates & Solicitors, 18th Floor, SKAV 909, No. 9/1, Residency Road, Richmond Circle, Bengaluru – 560025, Karnataka, India. Ph. 080-43503600/080-43503676
Email – brijita.prakash@jsalaw.com

GOA TOURISM DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LTD

(A Government of Goa Undertaking)
Paryatan Bhavan, 3rd Floor, Patto, Panaji - Goa. 403001
Tel: 0091(0)832-2494500 Fax: 0091(0)832-2437433
Website: www.goa-tourism.com E-mail: md@goa-tourism.com

Brief Tender Notice
(E-Tendering Mode Only)

No: GTDC/Properties/Anjuna Property/2025-26/5660 **Date:17/03/2026**

Development, Operations and Management of Family Entertainment Zone along with a Restaurant and Tourism Related Activities in Anjuna Goa.

Goa Tourism Development Corporation Limited (GTDC) invites e-tenders from single entities, joint ventures, and consortium for **Development, Operations and Management of Family Entertainment Zone along with a Restaurant and Tourism Related Activities in Anjuna Goa.** Agencies interested in applying for the tender may submit their duly filled application with complete information as required as per the tender document. The last date for submission of the tender is **06/04/2026** upto **05.00 p.m.** For detailed Tender Notice and for participation in e-tender please visit our e-tender website https://eprocure goa.gov.in Tender notice is also available on www.goa-tourism.com for reference. All queries with respect to the tender may be emailed to md@goa-tourism.com and Copy to kapil@goa-tourism.com by 27/03/2026 upto 5.30 pm.

Sd/- MANAGING DIRECTOR GTDC.

KARNATAKA STATE MINERALS CORPORATION LIMITED

(Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
Regd. Office : 5th Floor, TTMC A Block, BMTC Building, Shanthinagar, K.H. Road, Bangalore - 560027. Ph : 080 -22278813 /14/15/16 , Fax : 080-22213172 Website: www.ksmc.karnataka.gov.in

No. KSMCL/PROD/NDM/Tender/ROM-C&S/2025-26/3315 Date: 18.03.2026

E-TENDER INVITATION

KSMCL invites short-term e-Tender for the work of Excavation, Crushing and Screening work at Neeralakere Dolomite Mine (NDM), Bagalakot Taluk, Bagalakot District, Karnataka under e-tendering system through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

Tender Reference No	**KSMCL/2025-26/SE0062**
Downloading documents from website http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in	From 18/03/2026
Last date for receiving queries	02/04/2026 at 5.00 PM
Pre-bid meeting at KSMCL Head office	07/04/2026 at 11.30 AM
Last date and time for uploading of e-tender in E-procurement platform on or before	17/04/2026 Up to 5:00 PM
The Technical Bid will be opened Online by the Authorized Officer on	21/04/2026 at 11:00 AM
Earnest Money Deposit (EMD)	Rs. 4.14 Lakhs

Address for communication : General Manager (P) Karnataka State Minerals Corporation Limited, TTMC, 'A' Block, 5th Floor, BMTC Building, K.H. Road, Shanthinagar, Bengaluru - 560 027. Ph: 080-22278813/14/15/16

DIPR/CP/6348/NR/2025-26

Sd/- GENERAL MANAGER (P)

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA Public Works Department Executive Engineer PWD Division Chikkodi

No/PWD/CKD DIV/AE-2/TENDER/2025-26/8679 DATE: 17/03/2026

E-Tender Notification

Executive Engineer PWD Division Chikkodi has invited item wise e-Tenders from Eligible registered contractors for the works coming under the jurisdiction of Chikodi PWD Division 1 work under head of account 4059-Construction of Judicial Buildings and Judicial Quarters building, 1 work under head of account 3054-MDR Maintenance, 4 works under head of account 4059-SCP (CMIDP) and 3 works under head of account 4059-TSP (CMIDP). Totally 9 No. of Works. Amount put to tender is minimum of Rs. 8.00 Lakhs and maximum of Rs. 624.00 Lakhs.

Calendar of events for the works at Sl No. 2 to 9:

1) Last date for queries & clarifications : 02-04-2026 up to 5.30 PM, 2) Last Date of Receipt of Bids : 04-04-2026 up to 5.00 PM, 3) Date of opening of Technical bids (Two Cover System): 06-04-2026 at 4.30 PM, 4) Date of opening of Financial bids (Two Cover System): "after approval of Technical bids", 5) If no bid received auto extension will be done by e-proc itself for 2 days.

Calendar of events for the work at Sl No. 1:

1) Pre-bid meeting date: 13-04-2026 at 11.00 AM, at The O/o the under signed. 2) Last date for queries & clarifications : 15-04-2026 up to 5.30 PM, 3) Last Date of Receipt of Bids : 17-04-2026 up to 5.00 PM, 4) Date of opening of Technical bids (Two Cover System): 21-04-2026 at 4.30 PM, 5) Date of opening of Financial bids (Two Cover System): "after approval of Technical bids" 6) If no bid received auto extension will be done by e-proc itself for 2 days.

For more information & forms of tender can be downloaded from kppp.karnataka.gov.in & departmental web site www.kpwd.gov.in. Further details can be collected from O/o Executive Engineer Public Works Dept.,Division Chikkodi during working hours.

DIPR/BGM/RO-NO-2117/KSMCA/2025-26

Sd/- Executive Engineer PWD Division Chikodi.

KARNATAKA HOUSING BOARD

3rd Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K.G. Road, Bengaluru - 560009.

Tender Notification
(Through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal only)

Notification No: KHB/2025-26/SE0364 Dated : 16.03.2026

Karnataka Housing Board has invited tender through KPP Portal for Appointment of Selection of Consultant for Market Study and Transaction Advisory for Selection of Operators for Operation and Maintenance of KHB Commercial Complex with Multiplex Building at Suryanagar Phase-1 in Bengaluru

Last date for submission of bid is on 30.03.2026 upto 4.00 PM

For further information, contact below mentioned office address: Executive Engineer, Karnataka Housing Board, Cauvery Bhavan, Bengaluru. Telephone No: 080-22273511/080-22100077, Website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

DIPR/CP/6344/AKAR/2025-26

Sd/- Executive Engineer, Karnataka Housing Board, Bengaluru

KARNATAKA NEERAVARI NIGAM LIMITED

(Government of Karnataka Enterprises)
Office of the Executive Engineer, KARNATAKA NEERAVARI NIGAM LIMITED, No.4 BRLBC Division, Bhadravathi.

No: EE/KNNL/No.4/BDVT/TA/PB-1/TFS/ 2nd Call Tender Notification No: 17/ 2025-26: Dated: 12.03.2026
Ref: No. EE/KNNL/No.4/BDVT/TA/PB-1/TFS/Tender Notification No.17/ 2025-26 Date: 01.01.2026

TENDER NOTIFICATION - Call 2
(Through E-Procurement Portal only)

Percentage Tenders by KPP portal in the prescribed form is invited by the undersigned on behalf of Managing Director, KNNL, Bangalore from the eligible Contractor under the Head of Account TFS. The No. of work is 01. The approximate cost of amount put to tender is **Rs.36.52 Crores**. The amount of EMD is **Rs.0.36 Crores** (by kpp portal) contractors can access and submission of completed e-tendering documents from **16.03.2026 to 06.04.2026** upto 17.30 hours in the website **http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**, Technical Bid will be opened on **08.04.2026 at 17.30 hours** and Financial Bid will be opened on after obtaining approval of technical bid from competent authority. Pre-Bid Meeting on Dtd **02.04.2026 at 11.00 Hrs** at O/o Executive Engineer, No.4 BRLBC Division, Bhadravathi. Stipulated period for the completion of work is 18 Months (Including monsoon), For more conditions and details visit website http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in, OR at undersigned in all working days during office hours on telephone No. 8660573513.

DIPR/SMG/No-106-03/ Zenkar/2025-26

Sd/- Executive Engineer. KNNL, No.4, BRLBC Division, Bhadravathi.

ZILLA PANCHAYATH TUMKUR

O/o Executive Engineer, Panchayath Raj Engineering Division Tumkur.

No: EE/PRED/TmK/ TND No-24/2025-26 **Dated: 16.03.2026**

KPP-Procurement Tender Notice
Two Cover System

The Tender is inviting through KPP-procurement on behalf of government of Karnataka by the Executive Engineer, P.R.E.D. Tumkur 2025-26 CM Infractracture Development Programme for the Indent Number : (Indent No:1. : 1. RDPR/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT 21945/CALL-2, 2. RDPR/2025-26/RD/WORK_ INDENT21966/CALL-2, 3.RDPR/2025-26/RD/WORK _INDENT21980/CALL-2. 4.RDPR/2025-26/RD/ WORK_INDENT25225, 5. RDPR/2025-26/RD/ WORK_INDENT23471/CALL-2. 6. RDPR/2025-26/ RD/WORK_INDENT23480/CALL-2. 7. RDPR/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT23479/CALL-2) as per KTTP Act 2000 The Tender Documents can be obtained from the KPP-procurement Web Site and submitt the details on Dated 16.03.2026. to 23.03.2026. upto 5.00 pm. Further details can be obtained through website at http://www.KPPP.karnataka.gov.in or contact this office during office working hours.

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
Panchayath Raj Engineering Division,
Tumkur

DIPR/TUM/499/KSMCA/2025-26

DECCAN HERALD
ESTABLISHED 1948

Poll position: EC's big Bengal shake-up

Soon after announcing the schedule for the Assembly elections on Sunday, the Election Commission of India (ECI) effected a midnight reshuffle in West Bengal, replacing the state's top bureaucracy with handpicked officials. The Chief Secretary, the Home Secretary, the Director-General of Police, and the Kolkata Police Commissioner have been shifted, and the new officials have been directed to assume charge immediately. The EC said the officials transferred out would be kept away from active election duty. Subsequently, at least 19 top police officers and 13 district electoral officers were transferred. It appears the Commission had the names of the officials marked for transfer and their replacements ready. The official line is that the reshuffle is part of a "review of poll preparedness." This doesn't address the fact that such extensive bureaucratic reshuffles are not common, weeks ahead of elections. That the scene of action is West Bengal adds a political context to the development.

The Constitution vests in the EC the responsibility and powers needed for "the superintendence, direction and control of the preparation of the electoral rolls for, and the conduct of, all elections." It also requires the President or the Governor of a state to make the necessary staff available to the EC. The Commission's powers come into play as soon as the model code of conduct is enforced. It has exercised such powers to transfer officials at the state or district levels on its own or on receipt of complaints. But it is for the first time that the entire administration of a state is changed in this manner. The officers who have been replaced are experienced and senior personnel, and it is being pointed out that the officials who replace them are relatively inexperienced.

Sweeping official transfers in the poll-bound state stir debates on their timing and political implications

The EC has, in the past, invited criticism for its allegedly partisan conduct favouring the BJP-led central government. West Bengal is entering the run-up to a high-stakes election, where the BJP is set for a fierce contest with the ruling Trinamool Congress (TMC). The controversial Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in the state, which is continuing, is seen against the backdrop of this friction. The reshuffle of officials will also be viewed with the apprehensions over this political confrontation. The TMC has protested the transfers in parliament. Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee noted that the transfers were made without consulting the state government – an opening note of defiance that may set the tone for what is expected to be an intense poll campaign.

Access to water does not assure quality

Karnataka prides itself as one of India's richest states. Yet it has failed to provide clean, potable drinking water to thousands of villages – over 1,800 villages consume nitrate-contaminated water, while more than 1,300 are affected by fluoride and excessive hardness. This is a reminder that mere access to a tap does not guarantee safe water. Districts such as Chitradurga, Koppal, and Raichur face multiple contaminants, including arsenic and bacterial pollution. More troubling is what remains unmeasured – other pollutants often escape systematic recording due to weak monitoring. The deeper malaise lies in governance gaps. Testing remains irregular, triggered more by disease outbreaks than routine surveillance. The absence of a standard operating procedure, coupled with staff shortages across the Karnataka State Pollution Control Board and health departments, has created a data vacuum. While the government maintains contamination levels are declining, the fact that 5-6% of samples fail safety standards suggests the problem is far from contained.

This is not a Karnataka-specific challenge. The United Nations emphasises that safe water must meet five criteria: availability, quality, accessibility, affordability, and acceptability. India's policy focus has largely been on expanding tap connections, but quality remains inconsistent and often neglected. In Indore, touted as India's cleanest city, thousands recently fell sick after consuming contaminated water supplied by the civic body. In Gandhinagar, Gujarat, pipeline leaks triggered a typhoid outbreak, while industrial pollution continues to degrade groundwater. Cities in Uttar Pradesh have reported people taking ill after consuming contaminated water due to ageing pipelines that allow sewage ingress.

Water contamination in Karnataka calls for quality-focused reforms and regularised monitoring

However, states like Kerala consistently rank high in water quality. Its approach combines decentralised water management, strong local governance, protection of catchment areas, and sustained investment in purification systems. Odisha has pioneered 'drink from tap' initiatives backed by robust treatment infrastructure, while community-led testing models in parts of Gujarat have improved last-mile monitoring and accountability. Karnataka must draw from these examples and move beyond piecemeal fixes to a comprehensive state-wide strategy. The shift from groundwater dependence to treated surface water sources, regularised testing through clear protocols, and community participation in monitoring are essential. Equally important is restoring and protecting local water bodies, many of which are now severely polluted. The debate must move from counting connections to ensuring quality. Safe drinking water is not merely an infrastructure goal; it is a public health imperative and a fundamental right. Until the State closes the gap between access and safety, the promise of clean water will remain unfulfilled.

NEW METRICS, OLD CHALLENGES

Can India break free from the low income trap?

Reaching the upper middle-income status depends on sustaining high growth despite global and domestic headwinds

T K JAYARAMAN

February 2026 marked a quiet but significant turning point in India's economic narrative. Two of the country's most critical macroeconomic indicators – the Consumer Price Index (CPI) and the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) – were revised with a new base year. At first glance, these may appear as technical adjustments. In reality, they signal India's attempt to capture the contours of a post-pandemic, digitally driven economy, and to measure growth with sharper tools.

The new CPI series uses 2024 as the base year. Its basket has expanded from 299 to over 350 items, reflecting the diversification of consumption. Housing and services carry greater weight, while food's share has been reduced – a recognition that urban households spend more on rent, healthcare, and digital services than on staples alone. Crucially, the CPI now draws data from e-commerce platforms, acknowledging the rise of online consumption as a mainstream reality.

On February 27, the revised GDP series was released with 2022-23 as the new base year, the first year after Covid-19 disruptions. Methodological improvements include double deflation for manufacturing, integration of the 2023-24 Household Consumption Expenditure Survey, and reliance on administrative data such as GST filings, corporate reports, vehicle registrations, and digital payments.

The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) has also shifted to digital data collection with built-in validation, reducing lags, and aligning India's practices with the United Nations' System of National Accounts. These revisions seek to reflect structural shifts in the economy over the past two decades: the rise of digital services, renewable energy, and new consumption patterns. By modernising its statistical architecture, India is attempting to measure growth more accurately and, implicitly, to confront the question that has haunted policymakers: can the country finally escape the lower middle income (LMI) trap where it has languished since 2007?

The Union Budget FY27 rested on the growth projections from the Economic Survey 2025-26, rekindling optimism about India's long-term trajectory. The Survey indicated stronger performance in 2025, raising hopes that India could cross from LMI to join the upper middle income (UMI) status by 2037 and aspire to join the higher income (HI) status by 2047, the 100th year of Independence.

A State Bank of India study in mid-February projected a growth rate of 8.1% in Q3 FY26 – higher than the estimated 7.4%. Sustained growth at this pace could allow India to break free from the LMI trap earlier than expected, perhaps by 2030-2032.

The World Bank classifies countries with an annual per capita Gross National Income (GNI) of $1,135 or less as low-income (LI) countries. Countries with a GNI of $1,136-$4,495 are categorised as LMI countries, and those in the $4,496-$13,935 range as UMI countries. All other countries with incomes at $13,936 and above are designated as HI countries. India's current per capita GNI of $2,600-$2,700 suggests a long climb ahead, but the trajectory is promising.

India's persistence in LMI since 2007 contrasts with peers such as Brazil, China, Indonesia, Malaysia, and South Africa – all of whom have moved into UMI status. This comparative lag underscores the urgency of sustaining high growth. Encouragingly, India's pandemic recovery (2022-2025) drew praise from international funding institutions, hailing it as the fastest-growing major economy despite global headwinds.

The UMI goal

India's ambition to reach UMI by the early 2030s is mathematically plausible. Yet optimism must be tempered by risks such as volatile oil prices, geopolitical shocks, global financial instability, and climate variability. The US-Iran conflict continues with no end in sight, causing crude prices to rise.

Domestically, the challenges are equally pressing – insufficient job creation, persistent informal employment, and widening rural-urban inequality. In agriculture, raising productivity through precision farming, mechanisation, and climate-resilient crops is vital. Any such efforts would also result in a shift in employment to manufacturing and industry. Expanding agri exports and rural infrastructure could unlock new opportunities, but fragmented landholdings, water stress, and limited credit access remain challenges.

Manufacturing offers another pathway. 'Make in India' initiatives in electronics, semiconductors, EVs, and renewable energy equipment, supported by Production Linked Incentive (PLI) schemes, can integrate domestic firms into the global supply chains. Yet, high logistics costs, skill gaps, and regulatory burdens on MSMEs need to be addressed. Industrial corridors, port infrastructure, and workforce upskilling in robotics, AI, and green manufacturing are essential.

Services will remain India's growth engine. IT exports, fintech, AI, cybersecurity, healthcare, education, tourism, and hospitality can generate vast employment in the services sector. A gradual shift in GDP share from agriculture to the digital economy will reshape employment patterns, propelling India towards an advanced economy status by 2047.

Human capital investment is the linchpin. South Korea's 'Asian Miracle' was built on technical education and manufacturing, enabling its leap to high-income status in 1995. India spends just 3.5% of its GDP on education, far below Brazil (6.5%) and Malaysia (4.5%). As economist Jeffrey Sachs said, India has achieved outstanding success in conquering illiteracy, but it needs inventors. Strengthening technical education beyond elite IITs is critical. Without a skilled workforce, growth will stall.

If growth near 8% is sustained, risks managed, and inclusive job creation prioritised, India can plausibly graduate to UMI by 2030-2032. The longer march to the high-income status by 2047 will depend only on whether India invests in its people, its industries, and its institutions. Agriculture must raise productivity to release labour, manufacturing must scale globally, and services must innovate continuously.

(The writer was a senior economist with the Asian Development Bank, Manila)

RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE

The quiet defiance of gratitude

Sometimes, a single moment of thankfulness is enough

NALINI SORENSEN

In an increasingly volatile and fragmented world it's hard to find moments of gratitude. I'm training myself to find joy in the everyday, in the ordinary. I'm trying to keep a gratitude journal—which is now down to one entry a day, from three.

My husband works from Dubai. He was in our home in Mumbai for a week, to celebrate my birthday. He was due to fly back on March 1, when the US and Israel bombed Iran, on February 28.

The Dubai airport shut down, and life got unimaginable... missiles exploding, debris falling, SMS alerts blasting in on phones to "seek immediate shelter in the closest secure building", and people living in constant fear while panic buying from supermarkets. All things that crack open the reality of how fragile this world, this life, is.

For me, suddenly war didn't feel so far away from home. Geopolitics got personal, and right inside my living room.

I spent the day reading, watching everything I could get my hands on, on the situation as it was unfolding. I'm not sure how good this was for my mental health because the jarringly opposing views on social media gave me much pause for contemplation and cause for a Crocin.

And in the midst of all this loss, disruption and fear, I felt quite silly as I had that seemingly laughable task of trying to find one good thing to write about at the end of the day. Something to be grateful for.

"How do we find gratitude in the midst of despair? In the midst of fear and uncertainty?" I asked myself, as I stared at a blank page. The cursor blinked back at me, almost smug. Go on, it seemed to say. Find something. I dare you to.

It felt absurd. The world was on fire—literally—and here I was, expecting myself to jot down a neat little line about something lovely. The mind resists that pivot.

But gratitude, I'm realising, is not denial. It is not a refusal to see the smoke in the sky. It is a decision—sometimes a stubborn, teeth-gritted decision—to also notice the cup of tea warming your palms while the world burns on your screen.

One of my gratitude entries was embarrassingly small. Just five little words swimming in a sea of white on a blank page—He is here; in Mumbai.

Because my husband's flight was cancelled, because airports closed, airspace shrank and plans dissolved, he was still at our dining table, absent-mindedly stirring his coffee. The war felt close; the what-ifs felt close. But so did he.

Perhaps gratitude, in times like these, must shrink.

It cannot be grand or performative. It cannot be the kind that posts inspirational quotes in pastel fonts. It must be almost defiant in its smallness.

And then, on a recent night, I wrote my five words.

It didn't fix geopolitics. It didn't quiet the headlines. It didn't guarantee that flights would resume tomorrow.

But it steadied me. And for now, perhaps that is enough.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The govt must explain Wangchuk's detention

I refer to 'Detention revoked, questions unanswered' (Mar 18). The Centre's decision to revoke Sonam Wangchuk's preventative detention under the NSA ahead of the Supreme Court's verdict came as a huge surprise. However, it needs to be questioned on this "one-time magnanimity" and face consequences for wrongfully arresting the renowned climate activist if there were no compelling and cogent reasons behind his detention. The practice of arresting people under harsh regulations on false pretences and for political reasons has no place in our democratic setup. One hopes that the Supreme Court does not deem Wangchuk's *habeas corpus* petition infructuous based on his prior release, but rather examines whether the detaining authority acted lawfully and in conformity with its prior directions on such matters. If not, it should address accountability for the illegality and require Wangchuk to be compensated monetarily for all his suffering over the past six months. Only such a drastic action would deter future abuse of such draconian laws.
Kamal Laddha, Bengaluru

Safety features needed

Apropos 'Deepfake photos of woman filed... (Mar 18), deepfake photos and videos have become a growing concern. As photos and videos of women are easily available on social media platforms, morphing has become easier with advances in technology. Such acts invade a person's privacy and create mental distress for the victim. Social media platforms must implement safety features to prevent such activities. Accounts involved in creating and sharing such content must be instantly banned, and stringent actions must be taken to trace the offender's IP address.
Arunima Anilkumar, Bengaluru

Go green

In the contemporary geopolitical landscape, India's dependence on crude oil is likely to be a recurring crisis. The long-term solution is pushing for electrification through decentralised green energy. By transitioning to renewables, India reduces geopolitical risks, ensuring its economy stays powered even when global supply chains snap.
Sanchia Joanna S, Bengaluru

Our readers are welcome to email letters to: **letters@deccanherald.co.in** (only letters emailed – not handwritten – will be accepted). All letters must carry the sender's postal address and phone number.

SPEAK OUT

...Those who are not dedicated to the Congress party, the sooner they separate from us, the better it is for the party... These people have no ideology... They stand only for themselves. If they see an opportunity, they take advantage of the opportunity.

T S Singh Deo, Congress leader

Convenient virtue is the last refuge of the cornered politician.

Anonymous

TO BE PRECISE

IN PERSPECTIVE

Euthanasia and the burden of choice

Legal provisions vary by country and are entangled with deeply ethical and emotional dilemmas

BRIJESH KALAPPA

Harish Rana, who suffered an irreparable brain injury from a fall, remained unresponsive for over a decade, while his parents hoped against hope, exhausting all their earnings. When petitioned, a Supreme Court bench headed by Justices J B Pardiwala and K V Viswanathan allowed doctors to withdraw clinically assisted nutrition and hydration, which was being pursued, under a carefully structured palliative care plan. Justice Pardiwala is said to have broken down while observing that "passive euthanasia" itself is an outdated expression; the more accurate phrase is "withdrawing or withholding medical treatment".

In 1973, Aruna Shanbaug, a nurse in Mumbai, was sexually assaulted and strangled by a hospital wardboy. Oxygen deprivation in the brain left her in a vegetative state. She remained alive for 42 years without the judiciary intervening, despite being petitioned. In 2018, a five-judge Supreme Court bench, in a separate case, held that the right to die with dignity is a fundamental right. The Court held that an individual's right to execute advanced medical directives is an assertion of the right to bodily integrity and self-determination, and does not depend on any recognition or legislation by the State.

The parents of Karen Ann Quinlan, a 21-year-old American in a persistent vegetative state, asked her doctors to remove the respirator and let her die with dignity. The request conflicted with medical ethics and challenged who had the right to decide when to end medical care. A court held that Karen had the constitutional right to refuse medical treatment since she had no reasonable possibility of recovery. It ruled that her right to privacy, which afforded her the power to make that decision, could be exercised by her guardian and family on her behalf. Karen, despite being disconnected from the ventilator, continued to breathe for another nine years, finally dying in 1985.

While countries such as the United States and India are struggling with the idea of passive euthanasia, Europe has taken a major lead with active euthanasia. The difference between the two is that in the latter, life is snuffed out medically, with drugs that stop the functioning of the heart. A stark case in 2024 involves Zoraya ter Beek, a Dutch woman who received approval for assisted dying due to mental suffering.

The final approval was granted under the Termination of Life on Request and Assisted Suicide Act, passed in the Netherlands in 2002.

Ter Beek cited chronic depression, anxiety, trauma, and an unspecified personality disorder. She is quoted in *The Guardian* as saying, "I finished ECT in August 2020, and after a period of accepting there was no more treatment, I applied for assisted dying in December that year. It's a long and complicated process. It's not like you ask for assisted dying on a Monday and you're dead by Friday. I was on a waiting list for assessment for a long time, because there are so few doctors willing to be involved in assisted dying for people with mental suffering. Then you have to be assessed by a team, have a second opinion about your eligibility, and their decision has to be reviewed by another independent doctor."

A moral context

Mark van Dongen, a 28-year-old engineer in Bristol, the United Kingdom, was romantically involved with Berlinah Wallace, 45. In September 2015, following their split, Wallace threw sulphuric acid on the face of her former partner. Her action was described as driven by jealousy after van Dongen entered a relationship with another woman. He is reported to have run onto the street in his underwear, screaming for help until the paramedics arrived. He was kept at a hospital in Bristol before he asked his father to take him to Belgium, where his family lived.

In Belgium, van Dongen applied for active euthanasia. Following an examination, it was confirmed as a case of "unbearable" physical and psychological suffering, making him eligible for euthanasia under Belgian law.

The active euthanasia was carried out on January 2, 2017. Consequently, in 2018, a British court upheld Wallace's acquittal on murder and manslaughter charges.

The Supreme Court of India has now advocated for a legislative framework on passive euthanasia. Irrespective of the distinction between the active and passive modes, the question which steers the debate across the world is complex and deeply moral – "Can we take away something that we have no power to give – life?"

(The writer is an advocate in the Supreme Court and a former legal advisor to the Government of Karnataka with the rank of minister)

By ending the two-child rule, Rajasthan shifts focus from control to rights

DATELINE Jaipur

RAKHEE ROYTALUKDAR

Rajasthan recently scrapped its three-decade-old two-child policy for candidates contesting local body elections, triggering political debate and some disapproval. But the move has largely found support from those who argue that political and democratic rights should not be linked to reproductive choices, as this violates basic principles of equality and individual autonomy.

The Rajasthan Assembly passed the Rajasthan Panchayati Raj (Amendment) Bill, 2026, clearing the way for candidates with more than two children to contest the upcoming panchayat elections. The Bill was cleared by a voice vote in the 200-member House.

The two-child policy was introduced by the Bhairon Singh Shekhawat-led BJP government, barring candidates with more than two children from contesting the panchayati raj and urban local body elections. The rule was intended to stem population growth at the time. According to the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, the total fertility rate (TFR) in 1996 was 4.2, with the urban fertility rate at 3 and the rural rate at 4.5. A need was therefore felt to foreground family planning, especially in rural areas where a preference for a male child persisted, leading to population rise.

In 2001, the Congress government extended the two-child policy to government jobs through the Rajasthan Various Service (Amendment), 2001. The policy was upheld by the Supreme Court in 2024, which held that it was non-discriminatory and did not violate the Constitution, given its objective of promoting family planning.

The government now cites scientific evidence to justify the reversal. It notes that the state's TFR has dropped to around 2, below the replacement level of 2.1, rendering the rule outdated. The replacement rate refers to the rate at which children must be born for the population to maintain itself across generations; falling below it implies a gradual ageing of the population.

Greater awareness and the spread of education, particularly among women, who have begun adopting modern contraceptive methods – marking a 62.1% rise as per the NFHS-5 data – also prompted the government to bring forth this amendment. The government argues that the amendment will also enable more capable individuals – previously excluded by the two-child norm – to enter local governance.

While the opposition Congress also stands to gain from the change, it has questioned the timing. State Congress chief Govind Singh Dotasara has asked whether Rajasthan has truly stabilised its population. He has also raised a policy inconsistency: "Why should the government retain restrictions for government employees while removing them for electoral candidates? Why the dichotomy? Moreover, the population of Rajasthan is now over eight crore; have we been able to stabilise our population? It is a political move and a decision purely influenced by RSS' ideology."

Rajasthan's population in 1991 stood at 4,40,05,990. In 2001 it went up to 5,65,07,188 and in 2026 it is recorded at 8,38,79,000. Its population is projected to cross nine crore in 2036, according to a technical group report of the National Commission.

During a celebration to mark 100 years of RSS last year, its chief Mohan Bhagwat had urged Indian parents to have more than two children, asserting that it was necessary to stabilise the population and prevent a decline. According to UNFPA's 2025 State of World Population (SOWP) demographic report released in June 2025, India's TFR had declined to 1.9 births per woman, falling below the replacement level of 2.1.

Women's rights activist and general secretary of the National Federation of Indian Women, Nisha Sidhu, told *DH*, "We had opposed the move when it was introduced because in Rajasthan, the decision to have children is not a woman's prerogative but largely a family affair. Then a large number of women were kept out of local body elections. And now if they have scrapped it, it should be done for government employees as well. Moreover, the timing is suspect, as it has been done just before local body elections. And also perhaps in response to a call for Hindus to give birth to more children."

However, many activists have welcomed the decision, arguing that the rule not only curbed individual liberties but also created arbitrary distinctions between rules for Parliament and Assembly candidates and disproportionately affected women. They maintain that the two-child norm functioned as a coercive population control measure, undermining reproductive rights rather than serving as a rational public health strategy.

Poonam Mutreja, executive director of the Population Foundation of India, told *DH*, "Rajasthan's fertility transition is already well underway. The state's TFR has declined from around 3.7 in the mid-2000s to near replacement level today. Importantly, this decline has been driven by improvements in education, access to health services, and changing aspirations, even as the state experimented with coercive measures such as the two-child norm in the past. The evidence on what does not work is equally clear. Studies show that the two-child norm has had no sustained impact on fertility while producing serious unintended consequences, particularly for women and poorer households. In that sense, declining TFR in Rajasthan should not be seen through the lens of a 'low fertility' concern but as an opportunity to strengthen women's agency."

Overall, Rajasthan's decision to scrap the two-child norm marks a welcome course correction.

Israeli officials trumpeted airstrikes that killed Iran's leader and military commanders. But analysts warn that decapitation has its limits

DAVID M HALBFINGER

People gather to mourn Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, who was killed in US and Israeli strikes in Tehran on March 5. Experts argue that Iran's leadership is too deep for Israel ever to bring its government to the point of collapse. NYT

Israel keeps killing key Iranian leaders. Will it work?

Israeli military and political officials on Tuesday trumpeted the killing of Ali Larijani, Iran's *de facto* leader, as a feat of intelligence and military prowess. Combined with a deadly strike targeting top commanders of the country's internal-security militia, it was the most damaging blow to the Iranian leadership since the first day of the US-Israeli attack. Airstrikes that day killed Ayatollah Ali Khamenei and his top military commanders in a compound in Tehran.

It also highlighted how heavily Israel is relying on targeted killings to achieve its war aims — especially its goal of destabilising the Iranian government and helping make way for a popular uprising by weakening its internal-security forces. Earlier this year, those forces killed thousands of unarmed protesters.

"If we persist in this, we will give them a chance to take their fate into their own hands," Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu told Israelis in a video message on Tuesday.

Israel Katz, the country's bombastic defence minister, said he had ordered the military to keep hunting down Iranian leaders and to "repeatedly cut off the head of the octopus and not let it grow."But Larijani's death raises questions about whether Israel is killing so many Iranian leaders because that appears the surest way to achieve its military objectives — or merely because it can. The approach carries a risk of backfiring in unforeseeable ways. Israel has long experience eliminating its enemies.

In 1972, after 12 of its Olympic athletes were slain in Munich, Israel launched a yearslong campaign of vengeance aimed at killing every person responsible. In the early 2000s, it gunned down or blew up many Palestinians it accused of terrorism during the Second Intifada. And in 2024, it killed Hassan Nasrallah, the leader of Hezbollah, in an airstrike on his headquarters in Beirut. (His successor was killed in an airstrike days later.) Some Israeli analysts say there is at least some basis to believe that the tactic could now undercut Iran enough that the government signals a readiness to compromise on its nuclear ambitions and ballistic-missile capabilities.

Sima Shine, a former Mossad officer and expert on Iran and its proxies at the Institute for National Security Studies in Tel Aviv, Israel, noted that the Nasrallah killing helped weaken Hezbollah to the point that the Iranian-backed militant group agreed to a ceasefire with Israel in late 2024.

"It might come to a point where they say, this is too much for us," Shine said. "We are not there yet, and they're not saying it, but it might happen."

Eliminating commanders of the internal-security militia, the Basij, could similarly go a long way towards persuading its lower-ranking members "to wake up in the morning and not go to work," she said. But killing a top Iranian leader like Larijani could prove counterproductive, depending on who takes his place, Israeli analysts warned.

Larijani had a reputation as a pragmatist capable of working with moderates and hard-line military leaders alike, she said. His death could bolster hard-liners like the head of the Revolutionary Guard and the speaker of Iran's parliament, Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf, himself a former Revolutionary Guard commander. "They are the ones actually conducting the war," Shine said. "And strengthening the IRGC means continuing the resistance, continuing the war, and making demands that are unacceptable to the US and Israel," she added, using an acronym for the Revolutionary Guard.

Others argue that Iran's leadership — its "bench," in sports terms — is too deep for Israel ever to bring its government to the point of collapse. After Khamenei was killed, Iran named his son, Mojtaba Khamenei, a fellow hard-liner, to succeed him as supreme leader.

"Decapitation has its limitations," said Danny Citrinowicz, a former head of the Iran branch of Israeli military intelligence. "I don't think we've scratched the surface in the ability of Iran to find replacements that can take over for the people that have been decapitated." He noted that Israel killed nearly all of Hamas' leaders in the Gaza Strip, and both Nasrallah and his successor as Hezbollah's leader. Yet both organisations are still functioning, if significantly weakened. "It's not that I don't think decapitation is an important tool," he said. "But we can't build a strategy only on that."

A healthy respect for the unknown — unintended consequences, for instance — also argues against an overreliance on targeted killings, said Ami Ayalon, 80, a former commander of Israel's internal-security agency and of its navy. "We are very, very close to creating chaos not only in Iran, but all over the Middle East," Ayalon said.

He faulted US and Israeli leaders for failing to articulate clear, achievable objectives for the war.

The New York Times

Netanyahu hopes strikes will lead to uprising and regime change

Israeli attacks on Iran have been targeting the country's internal security services as part of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's strategy to destabilise the authoritarian government and create the conditions for a popular uprising.

Israel has already killed Iran's supreme leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, and announced on Tuesday that it had killed the country's top security official, Ali Larijani. Beyond that, the Israeli military has been heavily bombing the security forces that have quashed wave after wave of anti-government protests in Iran.

Some former Israeli military officials dismissed Netanyahu's strategy as unrealistic, arguing that Iran's internal security services are too deeply entrenched and powerful. Other experts, however, argue that Israel should try to bring about a change in leadership, while acknowledging that airstrikes alone will not be enough without a popular uprising. Netanyahu has said that Israel's air campaign has delivered "crushing blows" to Iran's security apparatus and will create "optimal" conditions for Iranians to oust their government.

"I'm telling the Iranian people," Netanyahu said at a news conference last week. "The moment you can come out for freedom is getting closer. We are standing beside you and helping you. But at the end of the day, it's up to you."

Even if Israel managed to weaken Iran's internal forces significantly, there is no certainty that government opponents would rise up again after a crackdown by authorities killed thousands in December and January. At the start of the war, Israel and the United States both stated their desire to lay the groundwork for regime change. But last week, President Donald Trump acknowledged that a popular uprising didn't seem imminent.

"They say if anybody protests, we're going to kill you in the streets," he told *Fox News* on Friday. "I think that's a big hurdle to climb for people that don't have weapons."

In the past two decades, Iranians have risked their lives to demonstrate against their government and stand up for freedoms. In the war's early days, many celebrated the death of Khamenei, who was the supreme leader for 36 years and systematically quashed dissent with lethal force and mass arrests. **NYT**

Oral care needs policy teeth

RAJEEV B R

Every year, World Oral Health Day, observed on March 20, is a reminder of the role oral health plays in overall well-being. This year's theme, ''A happy mouth is a happy mind' underscores a crucial yet often overlooked connection. Oral health is not just about teeth and gums; it is deeply linked to mental health, quality of life, and systemic health. In India, oral diseases are among the most widespread health issues, yet oral healthcare remains under-prioritised in public health policy. If the National Oral Health Programme's goals are to be met, policy action must go beyond awareness and move towards integrating oral health into primary healthcare services.

Oral diseases, such as tooth decay, cavities, gum disease, and crooked teeth, affect nearly 85% of Indians at some point in their lives. Poor oral health has been linked to mental health concerns. Tooth loss, bad breath, and visible dental issues can lead to low self-esteem, anxiety and depression, often resulting in social withdrawal. Oral health also affects appearance and, in turn, social performance. Research shows strong connections between oral diseases and diabetes, cardiovascular diseases, adverse pregnancy outcomes and respiratory infections. Untreated oral diseases lead to lost workdays and school absenteeism, further deepening socio-economic disparities. The burden falls disproportionately on marginalised populations, making oral health an issue of social justice. Despite these far-reaching consequences, oral health services are largely absent from India's public health discourse.

The draft National Oral Health Policy, released in 2021, is yet to be finalised. One key policy-level reform is reducing the high out-of-pocket expenditure incurred for dental treatments. Although the Ayushman Bharat scheme aims to address this issue, the coverage is limited. Another area is addressing the absence of delivery of essential oral health care at the primary health centre level. The Ayushman Arogya Mandir programme addresses only oral cancer screening at the sub-centre level, but other oral diseases are neglected.

I met a 62-year-old male farmer from Mangala village in the Chamarajnagar district in Southern Karnataka who had lost most of his teeth due to untreated infections. The Karnataka state's Danta Bhagya Yojana promised him free dentures, but the indirect expenses, multiple visits to the district hospital, and taking days off from work left him struggling. Such stories are common, highlighting the need for better policy formulation, execution, accountability, and monitoring.

Additionally, the recently launched Karnataka government's Gruha Arogya Scheme is set to introduce oral cancer screening as part of its broader preventive healthcare efforts. Given India's high burden of oral cancer caused by a variety of factors, such as tobacco use and betel quid consumption, this initiative has the potential to save lives through early detection and timely intervention. However, successful implementation will require adequate training of health workers and seamless referral pathways for patients needing specialised care.

To achieve the National Oral Health Programme's vision of universal oral healthcare, all stakeholders must work collaboratively with the government to implement the following:

Strengthening primary healthcare integration: All oral diseases must be part of India's Ayushman Bharat initiative, ensuring timely reimbursement to avoid future glitches.

Expanding state-level programmes: Successful programmes like Danta Bhagya Yojana should be strengthened and adopted across other states.

Real-time programme evaluation: There is a need to move beyond static policies and implement dynamic, data-driven evaluation frameworks that allow continuous improvements in oral health initiatives.

Oral health in national health policies: The 2021 draft National Oral Health Policy is a step in the right direction, but it needs stronger implementation mechanisms.

Oral health is not a privilege; it is a fundamental right that affects our dignity, confidence, and ability to lead fulfilling lives. By integrating oral health into national and state health agendas, strengthening public-private partnerships for the public good, and investing in preventive care, we can create a future where a happy mouth truly means a happy mind. A strong commitment from all stakeholders, including government bodies, research institutions, and civil society, to work towards collaborative leadership will ensure that oral health becomes a national priority. This can take India towards the goal of 'Health for All', where everyone, regardless of income, geography, or background, has access to essential oral healthcare.

(The writer is a community dentist and works at the Institute of Public Health, Bengaluru)

OUR PAGES OF HISTORY

50 YEARS AGO: MARCH 1976

Bangla raises new condition for Ganga water talks

New Delhi, March 18
By raising "extraneous issues," Bangla Desh has virtually rejected India's request for holding talks on the sharing of the Farakka waters without preconditions. Earlier, Bangla Desh had set a precondition that talks could be held only if India stopped the withdrawal of waters during the lean months, mid-March to mid-May. But now it has set a new condition for allocation of the Ganga waters throughout the year, further complicating matters, an External Affairs Ministry spokesman said today.

25 YEARS AGO: MARCH 2001

Sonia declares resolve to oust 'corrupt' government

Bangalore, March 18
The Congress adopted a more aggressive posture today and asked its workers to carry the message that the BJP-led dispensation at the Centre had "betrayed the nation" to every village in the country and that the Congress was determined to throw this government out. Party president Sonia Gandhi, forceful in her approach, said: "Let the message go from Bangalore that we will fight every battle, wage every war, make every sacrifice to ensure that the country is liberated from the shackles of this corrupt and communal government."

OASIS | NAJIB SHAH

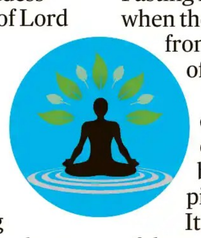
Remembering the soul of fasting

We are in the month of fasting. Many would have fasted during the recent Maha Shivaratri. Many will be fasting during Lent and Ramadan , both of which are currently going on. We are so focussed on fasting as nothing but self-denial from food and drink that we forget the larger purpose of why we fast, a classic case of in-attentional blindness—a psychological phenomenon where an individual fails to perceive an unexpected, fully visible object or event in plain sight because their attention is intensely focused on another task.

Fasting during Shivaratri is to increase the power of your prayers, of concentration, of meditation. We stay awake in the night and fast the entire night and day. We are carrying forward the tradition of Goddess Parvati who held the throat of Lord Shiva to prevent the poison from spreading in Lord Shiva's body.

Lent commemorates fasting over 40 days when the devout imitate Jesus Christ who spent fasting in the desert before entering public ministry. These are the days leading to Easter which celebrates the Resurrection of Christ. It is a time of penance and prayer.

Ramadan is the ninth month of the Islamic calendar; it is believed that the *Quran* was revealed to Prophet Muhammed during this month. Fasting is one of the pillars of Islam when the pious abstain from food from dawn to dusk. It is a period of contemplation.



In all cases, fasting is considered as time of prayer, of heightened spirituality, of becoming God-conscious, of piety, of building patience.

It is a reminder of the condition of the poor and needy. It is a period of letting go—our physical need for food, our ego and to surrender to the Almighty. It helps one appreciate God's infinite blessings better. When you eat food or drink water after you have denied yourself over a period, it makes you grateful. It purifies you spiritually—and as medical science tells us, it also makes you healthy as it releases toxins. Fasting should make us better persons-humble, helpful, empathetic especially after a period of introspection and meditation.

Each of us need to ask ourselves if after our period of fasting we have indeed become better persons, or were we so obsessed with the performance, the act of fasting, that we forgot the larger purpose of such fasting. And we cannot even call this inattentional blindness – this would be a case of, plain and simple, blindness.

BENGALURU NORTH CITY CORPORATION

Office of the Commissioner, BNCC, Amruthalli Main Road, Byatarayanapura, Bengaluru-560092.

No.BNCC/Comm/PR/356/2025-26 **Dated: 18.03.2026**

FORM I

NOTIFICATION {Under Sec 14B (4)(i)}

In exercise of powers conferred under section 14-B of the Karnataka Town and Country Planning Act. 1961, the following Area mentioned in the schedule below is required by **The Commissioner, Bengaluru North city Corporation, (Public Authority) for "DEVELOPMENT AND WIDENING OF ROAD FROM NH-7 TO RAILWAY LINE VIA NITTE MEENAKSHI COLLEGE TILL BNCC LIMITS"** It is hereby informed to the land owners and interested persons whose lands are required for the public purpose to appear and submit their claims along with the copies of the relevant documents viz. (i) Sale/partition/other deeds of title, (ii) Upto-date RTC's (iii) Mutation Copy (iv) Tax paid receipts (v) conversion order of Non agriculture purpose (vi) Revenue sketch (vii) Akar Bhand etc., in person in the place and dates as indicated in the address below and state their respective interest in such land.

The place where land owners / interested persons have to appear and submit their claims	Name and address of the Divisional / Sub divisional / branch offices	Date and Time
The Joint Commissioner, Zone-2. BNCC, MEI Layout, Hesaraghatta Main Road. Bagalagunte, Bangalore-560073	Executive Engineer, Yelahanka Division, Bangalore North City Corporation. Phone : 9620673768	30 days from the date of Notification. Time : 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

The land owners / interested parties of the scheduled properties whose lands are to be acquired shall give the consent for Grant of Development Rights to the Commissioner, Bengaluru North city Corporation, Amruthahalli main Road, Byatarayanapura.

The land owners shall receive twice the area of land surrendered in lieu of monetary compensation as Development Rights (Notional land) and two time the building area surrendered as estimated by the value of the building area surrendered divided by the market value of the land on which the building is constructed. The Notional land can be utilized by factorizing with the market value at the originating plot and receiving plot. The Notional land is eligible for FAR and can be used as additional built up area at the receiving plot as per the terms and conditions prescribed in the Benefit of Development Rights Rules, 2016.

The public is hereby informed about the details of the land and land owners and interested persons whose lands are required for the public purpose and Development Rights Certificates (DRCs) are to be issued in lieu of monetary compensation. Any objections and suggestions are to be addressed to the Joint Commissioner, Zone-2, Bangalore North City Corporation, MEI Layout, Hesaraghatta Main Road, Bagalagunte, within Thirty days from the date of publication of this Notification.

SCHEDULE

ACQUISITION OF LAND REQUIRED FOR "DEVELOPMENT AND WIDENING OF ROAD FROM NH-7 TO RAILWAY LINE VIA NITTE MEENAKSHI COLLEGE TILL BNCC LIMITS".

Sl. No.	Sy.No./ Khatha No.	Type of Land	Nature of Land			Dimension of the land/ plot and Extent in Sq.m		Boundaries of the Land/Plot				Building Details			Present Activity on Land/ Building (Specify Specific activity such as Shop, Office, Factory, Apartment, Individual House etc.,	Market (guidelines) value of the land per Sq.m.			Name and address of the owner of the plot/land for which DRC is to be issued / already issued.
		Vacant / Built up	Agriculture	Converted undeveloped	Approved Layout/ Developed Land Building Site	Dimension	Extent	North	South	East	West	Extennt in Sq.m	Type of Construction and No. of Floors	Floor Area Ratio		Agriculture/ B-Khatha	Converted, Undeveloped	Developed Site	
Name of the District : **Bengaluru Urban.** Name of the Taluk : **Yelahanka.** Name of the Village : **Venkatala**																			
1.	3	Vacant	-			309.58		Road	Remaining Portion of Sy No. 3	Road	Vaderapura Village	-	-	-	-	31,827.43/-	28,000/-	40,000/-	Jagaraj Prem Chand, M Ramachandrappa S/o Venkaramaiah, M Chinnaraju S/o Venkaramaiah, M. Ramakrishnappa S/o Venkaramaiah, K V Vashanth S/o G Nanjundappa, Rajeshkumar Jain S/o Kapur Chand Jain, Ravishkumar Jain S/o Kapur Chand Jain, Veghani, Kurshid Jan W/o Yasin Sharif, Chennamma W/o Venkataswamy, Venkataramanappa, Munivenkatappa, A Arundhathi W/o A.V.N Raju, AGK Raju, A.V.S Raju, A. Suguna W/o A.A.V. Rangaram, A. Shama W/o A.S.N. Raju, J. Krishnachaithanya Varma S/o J. V. Rangaraju, J V Rangaraju S/o Late Ramaraju.
2.	3	Vacant	-			309.17		Remaining Portion of Sy No. 3	Road	Road	Vaderapura Village	-	-	-	-	31,827.43/-	28,000/-	40,000/-	Jagaraj Prem Chand, M Ramachandrappa S/o Venkaramaiah, M Chinnaraju S/o Venkaramaiah, M. Ramakrishnappa S/o Venkaramaiah, K V Vasanath S/o G Nanjundappa, Rajeshkumar Jain S/o Kapur Chand Jain, Ravishkumar Jain S/o Kapur Chand Jain, Veghani, Kurshid Jan W/o Yasin Sharif, Chennamma W/o Venkataswamy, Venkataramanappa, Munivenkatappa, A Arundhathi W/o A.V.N Raju, AGK Raju, A.V.S Raju, A. Suguna W/o A.A.V. Rangaram, A. Shama W/o A.S.N. Raju, J. Krishnachaithanya Varma S/o J. V Rangaraju, J V Rangaraju S/o Late Ramaraju.
Name of the District : **Bengaluru Urban.** Name of the Taluk : **Yelahanka.** Name of the Village : **Vaderapura**																			
3.	18/1	Vacant	-			1224.75		Remaining Portion of Sy No. 18/1	Road	Venkatala Village	Sy No. 17	-	-	-	-	9,390.08/-	16,100/-	23,000/-	B S Manjunath S/o B S Sonnappa, J Srinivas Raju S/o J Sathyanarayana Raju, Jampana Srirama Raju S/o J Gopala Krishnam Raju, Puttam Reddy Prathap Reddy S/o Venkatasesha Reddy
4.	18/1	Vacant	-			1219.63		Road	Remaining Portion of Sy No. 18/1	Venkatala Village	Sy No. 17	-	-	-	-	9,390.08/-	16,100/-	23,000/-	B S Manjunath S/o B S Sonnappa, J Srinivas Raju S/o J Sathyanarayana Raju, Jampana Srirama Raju S/o J Gopala Krishnam Raju, Puttam Reddy Prathap Reddy S/o Venkatasesha Reddy
5.	17	Vacant	-			656.08		Road	Remaining Portion of Sy No. 17	Sy No. 18/1	Sy No. 19	-	-	-	-	9,390.08/-	16,100/-	23,000/-	G M Manjunath
6.	17	Vacant	-			755.88		Remaining Portion of Sy No. 17	Road	Sy No. 18/1	Sy No. 15	-	-	-	-	9,390.08/-	16,100/-	23,000/-	G M Manjunath
7.	19	Vacant	-			101.54		Road	Remaining Portion of Sy No. 19	Sy No. 17	Sy No. 26	-	-	-	-	9,390.08/-	16,100/-	23,000/-	B S Manjunath S/o Late B S Sonnappa
8.	26	Vacant	-			1405.62		Road	Remaining Portion of Sy No. 26	Sy No. 19	Remaining Portion of Sy No. 26	-	-	-	-	9,390.08/-	16,100/-	23,000/-	Kailasanath Patil, Shakuntala S Sugandhi, Kumaraswamy, M R Kumaraswamy S/o M C Rudrappa, M R Shivakumarswamy S/o M R Ramanna, M R Sangamesh S/o M R Ramanna, Shivaprasanna M R S/o M R Ramanna, Anjaneyalu prathipathi S/o Subbaiah , Krathikumara prathipathi S/o Anjaneyalu Prathipathi, Shivaprasanna M.R. S/o M.R. Ramanna. Nagaraj PrathiPathi S/o Late Parashuramaiah Prathipati, Janaki Ramaiah Yaralagadda S/o Venkateshwaralu Yaralagadda, Prasuna Metla W/o Srinath Metla, Srinath Metla S/o Jayakrishna Metla, Abhilas R S/o B Ramachandra Reddy
9.	15	Vacant	-			1340.25		Remaining Portion of Sy No. 15	Road	Sy No. 17	Sy No. 2/1	-	-	-	-	9,390.08/-	16,100/-	23,000/-	A Ramakrishna S/o Anjaneyachar, Armed Police Training School, Government Road, Police Department
10.	2/2	Vacant	-			1680.89		Sy No.1, 2/1 & Remaining Portion of Sy No. 2/2	Road	Sy No. 2/1, 15 & Remaining Portion of Sy No. 2/2	Road & Sy No. 2/1	-	-	-	-	9,390.08/-	16,100/-	23,000/-	Police Department, Zabaidah Kunil S/o P H Mohammed, Belnor Landcapes LLP, A. Ramakrishna S/o Anjenyachar, M/s Starlite Ventures, Dev Sathen Patel S/o Sathen Patel, Ketana Esates Represented by its Partner Mrs Kavitha Pai W/o Vivek Pai, Shamim Kunil S/o P H Mohammed, Shakil Abdul Rehman S/o P H Mohammed, Vamanjur Kathija Jahida W/o Amir Hanjha, Haya Rukhiya S/o Aamir Hanjha, Omran Hanjha Urff Mohammad Omran S/o Late Amir Hanjha, Jina Hanjha S/o Late Amir Hanjha, Asif Mohammad S/o P H Mohammed, M/S Adithya Developers On behalf M. Chandrashekar S/o M. Pullamma Raju, Payakar Rakiya Khalima.M. Chandrashekar S/o M. Pullamma Raju.
11.	2/2	Vacant	-			1744.34		Road & Sy No. 27/2 & 26	Remaining Portion of Sy No. 2/2	Road	Road & Remaining Portion of Sy No. 2/2	-	-	-	-	9,390.08/-	16,100/-	23,000/-	Police Department,Zabaidah Kunil S/o P H Mohammed, Belnor Landcapes LLP, A. Ramakrishna S/o Anjenyachar, M/s Starlite Ventures, Dev Sathen Patel S/o Sathen Patel, Ketana Esates Represented by its Partner Mrs Kavitha Pai W/o Vivek Pai, Shamim Kunil S/o P H Mohammed, Shakil Abdul Rehman S/o P H Mohammed, Vamanjur Kathija Jahida W/o Amir Hanjha, Haya Rukhiya S/o Aamir Hanjha, Omran Hanjha Urff Mohammad Omran S/o Late Amir Hanjha, Jina Hanjha S/o Late Amir Hanjha, Asif Mohammad S/o P H Mohammed, M/S Adithya Developers On behalf M. Chandrashekar S/o M. Pullamma Raju, Payakar Rakiya Khalima.M. Chandrashekar S/o M. Pullamma Raju
12.	2/1	Vacant	-			57.14		Remaining Portion of Sy No. 2/1	Sy No. 2/2	Remaining Portion of Sy No. 2/1	Sy No. 2/2	-	-	-	-	9,390.08/-	16,100/-	23,000/-	Police Department,Zabaidah Kunil S/o P H Mohammed, Belnor Landcapes LLP, A. Ramakrishna S/o Anjenyachar, M/s Starlite Ventures, Dev Sathen Patel S/o Sathen Patel, Ketana Esates Represented by its Partner Mrs Kavitha Pai W/o Vivek Pai, Shamim Kunil S/o P H Mohammed, Shakil Abdul Rehman S/o P H Mohammed, Vamanjur Kathija Jahida W/o Amir Hanjha, Haya Rukhiya S/o Aamir Hanjha, Omran Hanjha Urff Mohammad Omran S/o Late Amir Hanjha, Jina Hanjha S/o Late Amir Hanjha, Asif Mohammad S/o P H Mohammed, M/S Adithya Developers On behalf M. Chandrashekar S/o M. Pullamma Raju, Payakar Rakiya Khalima. M. Chandrashekar S/o M. Pullamma Raju

Contd.....

	25.	24.	23.	22.	21.	20.	19.	18.	17.	16.	15.	14.	13.
	7/3	7/1	7/2	7/2	23	23	4	4	27/1	2/1	27/1	1	27/2
	Vacant	Vacant	Vacant	Vacant	Vacant	Vacant	Vacant	Vacant	Vacant	Vacant	Vacant	Vacant	Vacant
	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	391.63	171.48	395.03	319.95	840.41	859.97	1389.98	1471.77	162.54	515.24	815.52	249.18	106.61
	Road		Road	Remaining Portion of Sy No. 7/2	Road	Road	Road	Remaining Portion of Sy No. 4	Sy No. 4	Sy No. 1 & Remaining Portion of Sy No. 2/1	Sy No. 27/2	Sy No. 2/2	Sy No. 2/2
	Remaining Portion of Sy No. 7/3	Road & Sy No. 7/2	Remaining Portion of Sy No. 7/2	Road	Remaining Portion of Sy No. 23	Remaining Portion of Sy No. 23	Remaining Portion of Sy No. 4 & Road	Road & Sy No. 27/1	Sy No. 2/1	Remaining Portion of Sy No. 2/1	Road	Remaining Portion of Sy No. 1	Road
	Sy No. 7/2	Sy No. 7/2	Manchenahalli Village	Manchenahalli Village	Vaderapura Village	Vaderapura Village	Road	Remaining Portion of Sy No. 4	Remaining Portion of Sy No. 27/1	Road	Remaining Portion of Sy No. 27/1	Road	Remaining Portion of Sy No. 27/2
	Sy No. 6	Sy No. 6	Sy No. 7/3	Sy No. 7/1	Govindapura Village	Govindapura Village	Remaining Portion of Sy No. 4 & Manchenahalli Village	Road & Manchenahalli Village	Road	Road	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	3,756.03/-	3,756.03/-	3,756.03/-	3,756.03/-	3,953.71/-	3,953.71/-	9,390.08/-	9,390.08/-	9,390.08/-	9,390.08/-	9,390.08/-	9,390.08/-	9,390.08/-
	11,270/-	11,270/-	11,270/-	11,270/-	11,340/-	11,340/-	16,100/-	16,100/-	16,100/-	16,100/-	16,100/-	16,100/-	16,100/-
	16,100/-	16,100/-	16,200/-	16,200/-	16,200/-	16,200/-	23,000/-	23,000/-	23,000/-	23,000/-	23,000/-	23,000/-	23,000/-
	Bharath K S.S/o Late S Somashekar	Military	K N Yallappa S/o K T Narayanappa	K N Yallappa S/o K T Narayanappa	J Ramaraju S/o J Sathyanarayana Raju. J Srinvasa Raju S/o J Sathyanarayana Raju. J Sriram Raju Jampan Sriram Raju S/o J Gopala Krishna Raju T Subba Reddy S/o Sundararamireddy	J Ramaraju S/o J Sathyanarayana Raju. J Srinvasa Raju S/o J Sathyanarayana Raju. J Sriram Raju Urf Jampan Sriram Raju S/o J Gopala Krishna Raju T Subba Reddy S/o Sundararamireddy	Government A. Ramakrishna S/o Anjaneyachar, M/S. Pore. Corners be Half of Partner G Shivakumar CENTURY LIVING PRIVATE LIMITED. J V Rangaraju S/o J Rama Raju. Dev Saten Patel S/o Satan Patel.	Government A. Ramakrishna S/o Anjaneyachar, M/S. Pore. Corners be Half of Partner G Shivakumar CENTURY LIVING PRIVATE LIMITED. J V Rangaraju S/o J Rama Raju. Dev Saten Patel S/o Satan Patel.	G M Shivakumar S/o Late G M Gowda	Police Department,Zabaidah Kunil S/o P H Mohammed, Behnor Landcapes LLP. A. Ramakrishna S/o Anjeryachar, M/s Starlite Ventures, Dev Sathen Patel S/o Sathen Patel, Ketana Esates Represented by its Partner Mrs Kavitha Pai W/o Vivek Pai, Shamim Kunil S/o P H Mohammed, Shakil Abdul Rehman S/o P H Mohammed, Vamanjur Kathija Jahida W/o Amir Haniha, Haya Rukhiya S/o Aamir Haniha, Omran Haniha Urff Mohammad Omran S/o Late Amir Haniha, Jina Haniha S/o Late Amir Haniha, Asif Mohammad S/o P H Mohammed, M/S Aditriya Developers On behalf M. Chandrashekar S/o M. Pullamma Raju Payaker Rakiya Khalima. M, Chandrashekar S/o M. Pullamma Raju.	G M Shivakumar S/o Late G M Gowda	Gramathana Beehara	G M Shivakumar S/o Late G M Gowda

	42	41	40	39	38	37.	36	35	34	33	32	31	30	29	28.	27.	26.
	47	47	49/3	2	3/1	6	3/2	5	14	33	13/1	13/1	10	10	33	9	6
	Vacant	Vacant	Vacant	Vacant	Vacant	Vacant	Vacant	Vacant	Vacant	Vacant	Vacant	Vacant	Vacant	Vacant	Vacant	Vacant	Vacant
Total	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
31607.33	1356.20	1456.79	94.84	704.91	346.40	1038.43	317.23	903.91	35.06	1250.58	1196.93	1099.29	794.41	1056.22	66.31	58.57	1337.07
	Road & Railway Property	Road & Railway Property	Sy No. 3/1	Gantiganahalli Village	Sy No. 2	Gantiganahalli Village	Sy No. 3/1	Sy No. 3/2	Sy No. 5	Remaining Portion of Sy No. 33& Sy No. 6	Road	Remaining Portion of Sy No. 13/1 & Sy No. 33	Remaining Portion of Sy No. 10 & Sy No. 33	Road	Remaining Portion of Sy No. 33	Road	Road
	Govindapura Village	Govindapura Village	Govindapura Village	Sy No. 3/1	Sy No. 3/2	Sy No. 33	Sy No. 5	Sy No. 5	Remaining Portion of Sy No. 14	Sy No. 13/1	Remaining Portion of Sy No. 13/1	Road	Road	Remaining Portion of Sy No. 10	Road	Remaining Portion of Sy No. 9	Remaining Portion of Sy No. 6
	Road	Remaining Portion of Sy No. 47	Road	Road	Road	Remaining Portion of Sy No. 6	Road	Road	Road & Sy No. 13/1	Road	Sy No. 10	Sy No. 10	Sy No. 33	Sy No. 9	Sy No. 6	Sy No. 6	Sy No. 7/3
	Remaining Portion of Sy No. 47 & Sy No. 49/3	Road	Remaining Portion of Sy No. 49/3	Remaining Portion of Sy No. 2	Remaining Portion of Sy No. 3/1	Road	Remaining Portion of Sy No. 3/2	Remaining Portion of Sy No. 5	Remaining Portion of Sy No. 14	Remaining Portion of Sy No. 33	Remaining Portion of Sy No. 13/1 & Sy No. 14	Road	Sy No. 13/1	Sy No. 13/1	Sy No. 10	Sy No. 10	Sy No. 9
	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
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	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	3,014.71/-	3,014.71/-	3,014.71/-	3,756.03/-	3,756.03/-	3,756.03/-	3,756.03/-	3,756.03/-	3,756.03/-	3,756.03/-	3,756.03/-	3,756.03/-	3,756.03/-	3,756.03/-	3,756.03/-	3,756.03/-	3,756.03/-
	8,855/-	8,855/-	8,855/-	11,270/-	11,270/-	11,270/-	11,270/-	11,270/-	11,270/-	11,270/-	11,270/-	11,270/-	11,270/-	11,270/-	11,270/-	11,270/-	11,270/-
	12,650/-	12,650/-	12,650/-	16,100/-	16,100/-	16,100/-	16,100/-	16,100/-	16,100/-	16,100/-	16,100/-	16,100/-	16,100/-	16,100/-	16,100/-	16,100/-	16,100/-
	Reserved Forest Area	Reserved Forest Area	A Ramakrishna S/o Anjaneyachar,	Kamini Rao W/o A S Aravind	J V Rangaraju S/o Ramaraju	C R. Nirmala W/o N V Gurumurthy. C R. Ahalya W/o M S Chandrashekar. C R Umamaheswari W/o Girish N. Ayya. Seethalakshmi W/o Late R. Venkateshwara Rao. C R Vasundara W/o K S Vasudeva. D N Narasimha Murthy S/o Late Nagamma. D N Narasimha Murthy S/o Late Nagamma. D V Vittal. D V Rekha D/o Late D K Vittal. D V Vijaya D/o Late D K Vittal. D V Rekha D/o Late D K Vittal. D N.Sreedhara Murthy S/o Late Nagamma. C R Venkateshwara Rao	Nitte Education Trust (R)	Green Orchards Farm Houses	Green Orchards Farm Houses	Military	H S Shridhar Rao S/o H S M Rao	H S Shridhar Rao S/o H S M Rao	K N Yallappa S/o K.T. Narayanappa. S Bharathkumar S/o Late S Somashekar	K N Yallappa S/o K.T. Narayanappa. S Bharathkumar S/o Late S Somashekar	Military	Yashawanth Shenoy S/o Late H V Shenoy. K N Yallappa S/o Narayanappa.	C R. Nirmala W/o N V Gurumurthy. C R. Ahalya W/o M S Chandrashekar. C R Umamaheswari W/o Girish N. Ayya. Seethalakshmi W/o Late R.Venkateshwara Rao. C R Vasundara W/o K S Vasudeva. D N Narasimha Murthy S/o Late Nagamma. D N Narasimha Murthy S/o Late Nagamma. D V Vittal. D V Rekha D/o Late D K Vittal. D V Vijaya D/o Late D K Vittal. D V Rekha D/o Late D K Vittal. D N.Sreedhara Murthy S/o Late Nagamma. C R Venkateshwara Rao

Name of the District : **Bengaluru Urban.** Name of the Taluk : **Yelahanka.** Name of the Village : **Govindapura**

Name of the District : **Bengaluru Urban.** Name of the Taluk : **Yelahanka.** Name of the Village : **Manchenahalli**

Name of the District : **Bengaluru Urban.** Name of the Taluk : **Yelahanka.** Name of the Village : **Gantiganahalli**

The Market value of Land shall be subject to land conversion and development status to be decided at Form-III stage based on production of documents from the Land Owners.

The Building extent shall be verified at the time of Form-III Public Notice stage based on the Building Valuation and Benefits of Development Rights Rules, 2016.

Sd/- Commissioner, Bengaluru North City Corporation.

'Not a happy situation': SC on Mamata's 'interference'

Court says ED can't be left remediless in I-PAC raids case

ASHISH TRIPATHI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

AGENCY VS STATE

- ED says Mamata barged into I-PAC office and obstructed money-laundering probe
- Agency seeks CBI probe against West Bengal and top cop
- SC declines to adjourn hearing on request by state govt
- Says state can't dictate how the court conducts proceedings

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee interrupting raids by the Enforcement Directorate at I-PAC office in Kolkata in January was not a "happy situation", the Supreme Court observed on Wednesday, adding that the central investigating agency cannot be left remediless when its functioning is interrupted.

Taking a up a writ petition filed by the ED for a CBI probe into alleged obstruction of public duty by Mamata and other top officers, a bench of Justices Prashant Kumar Mishra and NV Anjaria declined to adjourn the hearing on a request by the state government counsel. It said they cannot "dictate" to the judiciary how to proceed in a case.

Senior advocate Shyam Divan, appearing for one of the respondents, sought time to file a response to a rejoinder affidavit filed by the ED.

Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing for the ED, opposed the move, calling it a delaying tactic, as the rejoinder had been filed four weeks earlier. Divan contended that the rejoinder contained fresh allegations beyond the case's scope. Senior advocate Menaka Guruswamy, representing the state government, supported this.

The SC, however, said it will continue to hear the matter. The ED can begin the arguments and the state government can respond later.

Divan argued that if court was to proceed by ignoring the ED's rejoinder, there would not be any objection.

"Why should we ignore anything? You cannot dictate and decide how we go about the case," the bench said.

Divan said the state's preliminary objection to the maintainability of the ED's petition must be heard first. To this, Mehta said it can be considered along with the merits.

"What happened is not a happy situation," the SC said to the ED's allegation that Mamata "barged" into the I-PAC office while a money-laundering probe was on.

The state counsel said the ED has no power to move the high court under Article 226, or the apex court under Article 32.

The bench said, "Someday, some other CM may enter some other office, then who will decide? We decide issues when a new situation emerges, there can't be a vacuum in such situations."

Divan argued that the ED lacked juristic personality, as it was only a government department, and allowing a central department to file a writ petition against a state government would be dangerous to the federal structure.

In its plea, the ED sought the CBI probe against the CM, DGP and the Kolkata police commissioner, claiming that they obstructed a lawful money-laundering probe.

DISPUR CALLING

Quit Cong after 'humiliation, isolation': Pradyut Bordoloi

Congress veteran **Pradyut Bordoloi**, who joined the BJP on Wednesday, said that he quit the party after over three decades due to "humiliation" and "isolation". In an interview to *DH*'s **Amrita Madhukalya** soon after he resigned from the membership of the Lok Sabha, Bordoloi said Union Home Minister Amit Shah has asked him to contest from the Dispur constituency. Edited excerpts:

You met the Home Minister after you joined the BJP. Will you contest the elections?
I'm yet to take a final call; the Home Minister has asked me to contest from the Dispur and since the last date of nominations are just a few days away, I must decide fast. I am travelling back to Guwahati and I will meet my supporters before I decide.

ASSAM
Assembly Poll

Besides the fact that there will be a bypoll from Nagaon Lok Sabha seat, do you think it will be easier for you to win Dispur, with Mira Borthakur standing against you?
This is my second Lok Sabha term, and I have three years left. But I resigned from the House today. Then BJP's seniormost leader (Shah) said that I should contest in the Assembly because I have been a minister for 15 years in the Tarun Gogoi Cabinet. I have been an MLA four times, and so I am seriously considering this.

Your son has been given a ticket by the Congress.
He is an adult. So I told him to take his own decision. And my decision of joining the BJP should not be binding on him.

The Congress tried to reach out to you yesterday (Tuesday). Do you think it was too little too late?
Absolutely. As far as the Congress is concerned, I don't want to sound like a crying baby, but I have been relegated to the background. I have been trying to reach out to the leadership since January 3, and they maintained a silence. They refused to acknowledge me. I felt very humiliated on many occasions, I felt very suffocated... what is more important for me is to be able to work with self-respect and dignity.

Tell us more about the incident that actually made you leave.
The CEC meeting for Assam was the last straw. I did not know that Imran Masood (Saharanpur MP) was a communal person. When he went to Assam, he was given charge of screening; to my horror, I found out that he refused to sing the Vande Mataram, which has been part and parcel of the Congress culture.

This practice was initiated 80-85 years ago in the party and he refused to do it. Later, I found out that he was encouraging communal and criminal elements in my parliamentary constituency.

Assam Congress MP joins BJP ahead of Assembly polls

SUMIR KARMAKAR
GUWAHATI, DHNS

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma (left) and BJP Assam president Dilip Saikia (right) welcome Nagaon MP Pradyut Bordoloi into the saffron party, in New Delhi. PTI

The Congress in Assam was severely jolted ahead of the Assembly elections as its Lok Sabha member Pradyut Bordoloi — one of its tallest leaders — joined the BJP on Wednesday.

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma and other BJP leaders formally welcomed Bordoloi (69) into the party in New Delhi, a day after he resigned from the Congress.

Bordoloi, who headed the Assam Congress' manifesto committee for the Assembly elections, said he was feeling suffocated as he had been kept out of the party's major decisions for a long time.

Bordoloi, a two-time MP from the Nagaon Lok Sabha seat, was once seen as Tarun Gogoi's successor as the CM.

He quit the party after expressing dismay over its decision to field a certain candidate from Lahoreghat, an Assembly constituency under Nagaon. According to Bordoloi, the candidate — sitting MLA Asif Nazar — was linked to a group that had attacked him during last year's Assam Panchayat elections.

Bordoloi submitted his resignation to Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge on Tuesday evening, but did not cite any reason. However, in an earlier letter to Kharge, he questioned Gaurav Gogoi's way of handling the party's affairs, including the selection of candidates for the April 9 Assembly elections.

As the news spread, Gaurav and AICC in-charge for Assam Jitendra Singh met him in New Delhi to try to get him to withdraw his resignation.

Bordoloi's decision came despite the Congress naming his son Prateek as a candidate from the Margherita constituency, from where the father was elected an MLA before becoming a Lok Sabha member from Nagaon in 2019.

Gaurav said the resignation was Bordoloi's personal decision and called it unfortunate. "The Congress gave him a ticket in the Lok Sabha election. It also gave a ticket to a family member for the upcoming Assembly election. Yet, he remains upset for personal reasons."

Soon after his resignation, Union Home Minister Amit Shah called him and invited him to join the BJP. The saffron party also invited him to contest the Assembly elections from the prestigious Dispur seat. "No Sanatani Hindu leader can stay in the Congress," said Sarma.

A postgraduate from Jawaharlal Nehru University, Bordoloi also served as the power and industry minister in the Tarun Gogoi Cabinet.

The party-switching came days after senior Congress leader and its Assam unit's ex-chief Bhupen Kumar Borah quit the party and joined the BJP. He is likely to contest from North Assam's Bihpuria seat.

BJP-NDA veterans keenly await 2nd list of poll candidates

ARJUN RAGHUNATH
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, DHNS

With the BJP's second list of Kerala Assembly poll candidates expected any time, many senior leaders who weren't on the first list are eagerly waiting for it.

KERALA
Assembly Poll

Meanwhile, resentment within the party as well as its coalition partners over seat allotments is in the open.

Many senior BJP leaders — including state general secretary M T Ramesh, former Goa governor P S Sreedharan Pillai, former Mizoram governor Kummanam Rajasekharan, state secretary J R Padmakumar, and state vice-president B Gopalakrishnan — were learnt to have expected seats in the first list.

Ramesh reportedly expressed displeasure to the party leadership for not being considered for the Thrissur seat, which was given to Padmaja Venugopal, the daughter of former chief minister and Congress leader K Karunakaran.

The BJP, meanwhile, has already suspended Minority Morcha national vice-president Noble Mathew for openly criticising the candidacy of Union Minister of State for Minority Affairs George Kurian, who is a Rajya Sabha member.

There is also resentment in the BJP over the Kodungaloor and Tripunithura seats in Kochi being given to coalition partner Twenty20, besides the Aranmula seat in Pathanamthitta being given to another coalition partner, the Bharath Dharma Jana Sena. The saffron party has considerable influence in these constituencies.

Meanwhile, Kerala Kamaraj Congress leader Vishnupuram Chandrasekharan, who is also the vice-chairperson of the NDA in Kerala, has openly opposed the NDA's denial of the Parassala seat in the suburbs of Thiruvananthapuram to his party.

TMC lodges complaints with EC alleging poll code violation by Dilip Ghosh, BJP

KOLKATA, DHNS: The Trinamool Congress on Wednesday lodged complaints with the Election Commission against the BJP leader, Dilip Ghosh, for allegedly threatening violence against the ruling party's leaders, and the saffron party's state unit for posting content on social media to allegedly incite communal violence.

WEST BENGAL
Assembly Poll

The TMC alleged that Ghosh, the BJP's candidate in the Kharagpur Sadar constituency, had made a series of public statements containing explicit and specific threats of violence against All India Trinamool Congress (AITC) leaders, workers, and the general public, violating the Model Code of Conduct.

Referring to the recent attack on the senior Trinamool Congress leader Shashi Panja during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to address a BJP rally in Kolkata, the TMC alleged that Ghosh had been recorded in videos telling journalists that similar attacks could also occur at Kalighat and at the residence of TMC legislator Madan Mitra.

Mamata Banerjee, the chief minister and the TMC supremo, lives in Kalighat.

The TMC demanded that the EC issue a show-cause notice to Ghosh, asking him to explain why stringent action should not be taken against him for the aforesaid violations of the Model Code of Conduct and the Representation of the People Act, 1951.

'Misleading video'
The TMC lodged another complaint to the EC, alleging that the BJP's unit in West Bengal had violated the poll code by circulating a "misleading and manipulated" video on X.

The BJP made the video by allegedly putting in it selectively edited speeches of Mamata and the mayor of Kolkata, Firhad Hakim, and presenting them out of context to falsely suggest that the TMC was pursuing a policy of "appeasement" to woo a particular community.

ONOE panel tenure extended to last week of Monsoon Session

NEW DELHI, DHNS: The Lok Sabha on Wednesday once again extended the tenure of the Joint Committee of Parliament examining the Bills that seek to introduce One Nation One Election (ONOE) — simultaneous polls to the Lok Sabha and state Assemblies.

The new tenure is till the last week of the Monsoon Session, which is usually held in July-August.

Senior BJP MP P P Chaudhary, the chairman of the committee, moved the motion seeking the extension of the 39-member multi-party panel's tenure till the first day of the last week of the Monsoon Session. It was adopted by a voice vote.

The Constitution (129th Amendment) Bill, 2024, and the Union Territories Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2024, which had attracted criticism from the Opposition, were introduced in the Lok Sabha on December 17, 2024, and were sent for further Parliamentary scrutiny.

The panel held its first meeting on January 8 last year, and 16 more since then. It got its fourth extension during the Winter Session last year.

AI summit earns Rs 69 cr, costs Rs 65 crore

NEW DELHI, DHNS: The AI India Impact Summit incurred an expenditure of Rs 65 crore, while generating Rs 69 crore from the sale of exhibition space and associated services to exhibitors, the government informed the Lok Sabha on Wednesday.

The response came in a written reply by Minister of State for Information and Broadcasting L Murugan to questions raised by senior Trinamool Congress MP Mala Roy.

The summit had run into controversy over allegations of mismanagement, as well as claims that one of the exhibitors, Galgotias University, displayed a Chinese-made robodog as its own, and a 'shirtless' protest by the Youth Congress.

Murugan said it was the first time that the Global AI Summit was held in the Global South, and that the shift signalled a broader move towards a more inclusive global AI dialogue.

Vijay rules out alliances, says TVK to contest polls alone

E T B SIVAPRIYAN
CHENNAI, DHNS

Vijay takes part in an iftar gathering at Mamallapuram on Wednesday. PTI

The Putting an end to speculation over his party joining the AIADMK-BJP alliance, Tamilaga Vetri Kazhagam (TVK) chief and actor Vijay on Wednesday said he would never compromise on his "secular" credentials and asserted that his party would contest the April 23 Assembly elections independently.

Vijay chose an iftar ceremony organised by his party to reaffirm that the TVK will enter into an alliance only with parties that accept his leadership.

TAMIL NADU
Assembly Poll

The actor-politician's remarks come amid intense speculation that the BJP was involved in back-channel talks with the TVK for an alliance to take on the formidable DMK.

"Ever since we launched TVK, our opponents kept accusing us of being part of this team and that team. And when they realised Vijay is people's team, they began spreading rumours that I am joining a certain alliance (NDA). This wrong information may have caused confusion in your minds," Vijay said at the iftar ceremony at a five-star hotel in Mamallapuram.

"Let me make things open and clear. Our party will always be secular. We will never compromise on our secular social justice principles. We will form a government on our own. We will not make compromises on this," Vijay added.

With Vijay's categorical announcement, the stage is set for a four-cornered contest between the DMK-led Secular Progressive Alliance, the AIADMK-led NDA, TVK and Tamil nationalist Naam Tamizhar Katchi.

Though Vijay has been keeping a distance from the BJP, the speculation of TVK joining the NDA began after the Congress and DMK signed their electoral pact. The rumours got credence last week after a meeting of district secretaries convened by the TVK ended up discussing the alliance question, with a majority supporting allying with another party to defeat the DMK.

Despite TVK refuting reports of discussing an alliance with the NDA, party's general secretary (election management) on Tuesday claimed that Vijay was offered 90 seats and the CM's post on a rotation basis, but Vijay refused.

'Loved us, but married Modi': Kharge takes a dig at Deve Gowda

AJITH ATHRADY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

Mallikarjun Kharge

HD Deve Gowda

Leader of the Opposition in the Rajya Sabha Mallikarjun Kharge on Wednesday took a dig at former prime minister HD Deve Gowda, saying that the JD(S) leader "loved" the Congress but "married Modi".

Gowda responded to Kharge in the same vein, saying that he had to "divorce" the Congress because it was an "abusive relationship".

Kharge, while bidding farewell to retiring Rajya Sabha members, recalled his association with Deve Gowda.

"I have known Deve Gowda for a long time — 54 years. But I do not know what happened. He fell in love with us, but married Modi sahab."

Kharge's remark made the PM, who was present in the Rajya Sabha, laugh.

Reacting to Kharge's statement, the JD(S) patriarch posted on X, "If I were to respond to my friend in the same language of marriage, I would like to say that I was in a forced marriage with the Congress but had to divorce them because it was an abusive relationship."

Gowda said he was not in the House when Kharge spoke, as he had to leave for Bengaluru to be present for Ugadi celebrations on Thursday. He also sought to remind Kharge that in 2018, the Congress had sent its leader Ghulam Nabi Azad and offered Kumaraswamy the chief minister's post. "I did not consent to this."

"I told in everybody's presence that Kharge should be made the CM. However, Azad insisted on Kumaraswamy's leadership. But after all this song, dance and a wedding, what did they do in 2019? They dumped us. How many Congress MLAs defected to the BJP and who sent them across is now common knowledge," he said.

Gowda said that if the Congress had acted against the person who instigated defection that day, "today my friend Kharge would be in a better position as AICC president".

"To put the record straight, I did not desert the Congress alliance. It is they who walked away," Gowda claimed.

59 members retire
The Rajya Sabha on Wednesday bid farewell to 59 of its retiring members , with Prime Minister Narendra Modi urging them to remain active in the service of the nation and its people while noting that there is no full stop in politics.

Oppn-ruled states stalling PM-named plans: Minister

NEW DELHI, DHNS: Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan on Wednesday accused Opposition-ruled states of playing politics by rejecting public-welfare schemes simply because they had "prime minister" in their names.

Replying in the Lok Sabha on a discussion on the Demand for Grants under the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare, Chouhan asked states to desist from politicising public-welfare schemes and instead focus on people's welfare.

The minister claimed Punjab and West Bengal had deprived their farmers of benefits by not implementing the "PM Fasal Beema Yojana".

STAYING AHEAD

CDS recommends joining grouping to develop 6th-gen combat aircraft

KALYAN RAY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

India may join one of the two global consortia to develop sixth-generation combat aircraft, Chief of the Defence Staff Gen Anil Chauhan has informed a panel of lawmakers, while noting that talks were underway on how to manufacture fifth-generation indigenous fighter aircraft.

The first consortium consists of the UK, Italy, and Japan, while the second has France and Germany, Gen Chauhan told the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Defence, according to the reports it tabled on Wednesday.

"Efforts are on to ensure that we become a part of one of the consortia and start thinking about sixth-generation fighters," he said.

Still largely at a conceptual stage, sixth-generation fighters are likely to have high stealth and a larger AI component, and will be able to work seamlessly with unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs). They are expected to replace fifth-generation aircraft like the F-35, Su-57, and the J-20.

Gen Chauhan told the committee that the homegrown fifth-generation advanced medium combat aircraft (AMCA)'s design had been developed, and discussions were ongoing to finalise the manufacturing plans. The Indian Air Force (IAF) plans to induct six squadrons of these combat aircraft from 2035.

The IAF currently has just 29 fighter squadrons, against its sanctioned strength of 42, with no immediate procurement of fighter aircraft on the horizon.

Gen Chauhan informed the House panel that the government was in the process of expanding the IAF's area of operations beyond its current responsibility of an altitude of up to 20 km. This, he said, was needed because hypersonic ballistic missiles fly near space, and the IAF is needed to counter such threats.

Meanwhile, a year after Operation Sindoor, the Defence Ministry plans to set up a Future Operation Analysis Group to develop tactics, techniques, procedures, and operational art for future wars, top officials told the Parliamentary Standing Committee.

Jointness and integration in networking, communications, aerospace safety, logistics, and maintenance were identified as the major focus areas for future preparations.

Officials also told the committee that the Indian Army had readied over 300 schemes to acquire "potent fighting capabilities" in the next 10 years, and that Op Sindoor lessons were being integrated into the process.

WEST ASIA CRISIS: B'desh, Lanka, Maldives among nations that await emergency fuel supplies

India to prioritise domestic fuel demand

AJITH ATHRADY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

'NATION FIRST'

- Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas Joint Secretary Sujata Sharma says domestic fuel demand has to be met first
- 'If there is a surplus after meeting all of the domestic demand, a decision can be taken by the appropriate authority,' she says
- India has surplus refining capacity and supplies fuel to Nepal, Bhutan

With many countries facing severe fuel shortages due to the West Asia conflict, the Central government on Wednesday said that India would prioritise meeting the domestic fuel demand before considering supply requests from countries such as Bangladesh and other regional buyers.

"The domestic fuel demand has to be met first. If there is a surplus after meeting all of the domestic demand, a decision can be taken by the appropriate authority," Union Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas Joint Secretary Sujata Sharma told reporters here.

She said ensuring adequate domestic availability was the primary focus, with exports to be evaluated only after internal demand was fully met.

Several neighbouring nations—including Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, and the Maldives — have requested emergency fuel supplies from India to mitigate shortages caused by the West Asia conflict.

Bangladesh sought diesel in excess of the 5,000 tonnes it receives via a pipeline under an existing arrangement. Sri Lanka and the Maldives have also sought additional fuel supplies from India.

India also supplies fuels like petrol, diesel and LPG to Nepal and Bhutan. Nepal has reportedly requested an additional 3,000 tonnes of LPG each month.

India has surplus refining capacity: It makes fuels more than its annual consumption. The surplus is exported.

However, the West Asia conflict has disrupted supplies of crude oil — the raw material—as well as products like LPG.

India imports about 88% of its crude oil, 50% of its natural gas, and 60% of its LPG requirements.

Before the war broke out, more than half of the crude oil India imported came from countries like Saudi Arabia, Iraq, and the UAE, which used the Strait of Hormuz for shipping. As much as 85-95% of LPG and 30% of natural gas came through the strait.

With the strait now blocked, India has managed to partially meet its crude oil demand through alternative sources, such as Russia, West Africa, the US, and Latin America.

Traders at Lalbaug Spice Market prepare spices using traditional wood-fired stoves amid a shortage of commercial LPG cylinders, in Mumbai, on Wednesday. PTI

1.7m tonnes of India's fuel stuck in Hormuz

SUPPLY DISRUPTION

- 1.67 million tonnes crude oil, 3.2 lakh tonnes LPG, 2 lakh tonnes LNG stuck
- Six LPG carriers, one LNG tanker, four oil tankers among those stranded
- 611 seafarers on 22 vessels reportedly safe
- Iran may allow select vessels to transit after verification

NEW DELHI, DHNS: The Centre on Wednesday said that India's 1.67 million tonnes of crude oil, 3.2 lakh tonnes of LPG and about 2 lakh tonnes of LNG are stuck on the 22 Indian-flagged ships stranded in the Persian Gulf, waiting to transit through the Strait of Hormuz.

Of the 22 remaining Indian-flagged vessels on the west side of the Strait of Hormuz, six are LPG carriers, one is a liquefied natural gas (LNG) tanker, four are crude oil tankers, one is transporting chemical products, three are container ships, and two are bulk carriers.

Additionally, one vessel is a dredger, another is empty with no cargo, and three are in dry dock undergoing routine maintenance, Rajesh Kumar Sinha, Special Secretary in the Shipping Ministry, said on Wednesday.

All 611 seafarers on 22 vessels (on the west side of the Strait) are safe. Efforts are on to secure passage of Indian vessels through the war-hit strait, he said.

The Strait of Hormuz, the narrow waterway that connects the Persian Gulf to the open ocean, has effectively been shut following the US and Israel attack on Iran and Tehran's sweeping retaliation.

Overall, close to 500 tanker vessels remain confined to the Persian (Arabian) Gulf. These include 108 crude oil tankers, 166 oil product tankers, 104 chemical/product tankers, 52 chemical tankers and 53 other tanker types.

Reports are coming from the Gulf region that Iran may be allowing select vessels to transit the strait after verification. At least four vessels have transited outbound the Strait of Hormuz over the past few days with a short diversion via the Larak-Qeshm Channel.

This, they say, appears to be a verification process whereby Iran confirms the ownership, cargo and vessel are not of the US, or belong to those that Iran has permitted transit to.

The ships that have passed are three bulk carriers (2 Greek/1 Indian) and an Aframax tanker (Pakistan).

On Monday, the first ship, Shivalik, reached Gujarat's Mundra port, followed by the second tanker Nanda Devi on Tuesday.

Rajesh Kumar Sinha said that the tankers started to discharge the LPG. The transfer process from takes place at a rate of 1,000 tonnes per hour; consequently, the entire operation is expected to take two days to complete, the official said on Tuesday.

After shifting to daughter ships, the consignment brought by Nanda Devi will be transferred to Ennore (Tamil Nadu) and Haldia (West Bengal) along the eastern coast.

Free navigation via Strait of Hormuz 'foremost priority': PM Modi to Kuwait Crown Prince

NEW DELHI, PTI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday exchanged views on the evolving situation in West Asia with Crown Prince of Kuwait Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah and said that ensuring safe and free navigation through the Strait of Hormuz remains the foremost priority.

In their telephonic conversation, the two leaders agreed that sustained diplomatic engagement remains essential for regional peace and stability.

Narendra Modi

"Spoke with HH Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah, Crown Prince of Kuwait and conveyed greetings on the upcoming festival of Eid," the PM said on social media.

"We exchanged views on the evolving situation in West Asia and shared concerns over recent developments. Reiterated India's condemnation of attacks on Kuwait's sovereignty and territorial integrity," the prime minister added.

"Ensuring safe and free navigation through the Strait of Hormuz remains our foremost priority. We agreed that sustained diplomatic engagement remains essential for regional peace and stability," he said.

Modi also thanked the Crown Prince for the continued support for the safety and well-being of the Indian community in Kuwait.

This was the second time Prime Minister Modi spoke to the Kuwaiti leader since the West Asia conflict started nearly three weeks ago when the US and Israel attacked Iran, drawing retaliation from Iran, which also targeted several Gulf countries.

PM Modi has spoken to a number of leaders of West Asia since the current conflict started. These include leaders from Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, the UAE, Oman, Jordan, Israel and Iran.

1k Indians in Iran, 23k students miss CBSE exams in Gulf region: MEA

NEW DELHI, PTI: Nearly 1,000 Indians are still in Iran amidst the ongoing conflict in West Asia, while 23,000 school students based in the Gulf region could not appear in the CBSE final examinations due to the turmoil.

This was conveyed by the Ministry of External Affairs to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on External Affairs at a meeting held here on Wednesday.

"Well, there are about 1,000 still in Iran, but not all of them necessarily wish to leave," chairman of the panel Shashi Tharoor told reporters here after the meeting.

The Congress leader said Class 10 and Class 12 students based in the Gulf region have not been able to write their ongoing CBSE final examinations.

"I asked if there could be any steps taken to address their plight. And I gathered that there has already been consultations between the MEA and the Ministry of Education about ensuring that CBSE makes remedial arrangements for 23,000 students in the Gulf who could not write the exams," Tharoor said.

Govt may allow more ministries to issue content takedown orders

NEW DELHI, PTI: The government is considering authorising some more ministries, including Defence, External Affairs, and Home Affairs, to issue content takedown orders to social media platforms, sources said on Wednesday.

Inter-ministerial discussions are currently underway, government sources said, but they did not provide a timeline for when this may be implemented.

At present, the Ministry of Electronics and IT (Meity) is the nodal ministry for takedowns and content blocking orders, and the latest move to expand the ambit of designated ministries would ensure that takedown orders can be issued faster on misleading, illegal content and AI-generated deepfakes.

Discussions are on with Defence, Ministry of External Affairs, and Ministry of Home Affairs, government sources said, adding that once decided, the changes can be brought through tweaks in IT Rules itself.

Section 69A of the IT Act, 2000, empowers the Centre to block public access to online content, websites, apps, or social media posts in the interest of national security and public order.

In February this year, the Centre tightened rules for social media platforms such as YouTube and X, mandating the takedown of unlawful content within three hours and requiring clear labelling of all AI-generated and synthetic content.

The new rules had come in response to the growing misuse of Artificial Intelligence to create and circulate deceptive, obscene, and fake content on social media platforms and those fabricating real-world events. It mandated embedding of permanent metadata or identifier with AI content and banned content considered illegal in eyes of law as well as shortened user grievance redressal timelines.

'Jag Laadki' reaches Guj port

Indian-flagged tanker 'Jag Laadki', carrying around 80,886 metric tonnes (MT) of crude oil, arrived at Mundra Port in Gujarat on Wednesday, officials said, reporst PTI.

Adani Ports, which operates Mundra Port, said that the crude oil carried by the tanker was sourced from the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and loaded at Fujairah Port there. The tanker's arrival at the Mundra Port underscores the facility's critical role in handling substantial crude imports, it said.

Kathua rape & murder: No HC relief to convict

SRINAGAR, DHNS: The Punjab and Haryana High Court has refused to suspend the life sentence of Sanji Ram, the main accused in the 2018 Kathua rape and murder case, holding that he does not deserve the "concession of suspension of sentence at this stage".

A bench of Justices Gurvinder Singh Gill and Ramesh Kumari, in its March 6 order, said it was not inclined to grant interim relief without commenting on the merits of the case.

However, it directed that Ram's appeal against conviction be listed for final hearing in September, noting that he has already spent over eight years in custody.

Ram, a former temple caretaker, was sentenced to life imprisonment by a Pathankot court in 2019.

The case relates to the abduction, rape, and murder of an eight-year-old girl from the nomadic Bakerwal community in Kathua in January 2018.

Cabinet clears Rs 2,585-cr small hydropower scheme

NEW DELHI, DHNS

The Union Cabinet on Wednesday approved a small hydropower development scheme with an outlay of Rs 2,585 crore to boost the development of 1,500 MW of renewable capacity.

The projects will be developed as run-of-river projects without constructing dams or displacing people. There is potential for small hydro projects at 7,133 sites, with a total capacity of 21,000 MW in the country. The capacity of these projects ranges from 1 MW to 25 MW each, Information and Broadcasting Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw told reporters after the Union Cabinet meeting here.

The projects will be implemented over five years till 2030-31 and are expected to attract Rs 15,000 crore in investment in small hydro projects, he said.

Under the scheme, central financial assistance of up to Rs 3.6 crore per MW or 30% of the project cost, whichever is lower, will be provided, with an upper limit of Rs 30 crore per project. In other states, assistance of up to Rs 2.4 crore per MW or 20% of the project cost, whichever is lower, will be available, with a cap of Rs 20 crore per project. This will help tap small hydro potential in remote and difficult-to-reach locations, he said.

A previous run-of-river scheme ended in 2017 and developed small hydro projects at only 1,196 sites across the country.

At present, 5,100 MW of small hydropower projects are operational in the country.

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has approved the construction of a four-lane, access-controlled National Highway-927 from Barabanki to Bahraich in Uttar Pradesh at a cost of Rs 6,969.04 crore.

Rs 1,718 crore for cotton procurement

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs on Wednesday approved Rs 1,718.56 crore in funding to the Cotton Corporation of India (CCI) for procurement operations.

"... the CCEA has approved Minimum Support Price (MSP) funding of Rs 1,718.56 crore to the Cotton Corporation of India (CCI) for the cotton season 2023–24," an official statement said.

The funding will help provide direct price support to cotton farmers nationwide.

The Centre fixes the MSP for seed cotton based on the recommendations of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP). It is the central nodal agency for undertaking MSP operations in cotton.

Delhi, Indore blazes kill 17; major fires in Ahmedabad, Chandigarh

NEW DELHI/INDORE, PTI: Devastating fires in Delhi and Indore on Wednesday killed 17 people, many of them children, and gutted several shops in busy markets in Ahmedabad and Chandigarh, triggering panic and large-scale firefighting operations.

Authorities rushed teams to contain the flames and rescue those trapped, ordered probes into the incidents, and announced financial compensation for the victims.

In Delhi, nine members of a family, including three children and a 70-year-old woman, were killed after a massive fire tore through a multi-storey residential-cum-commercial building in city's Palam area.

Three others were injured; two of them jumped from the building at Ram Chowk Market near Palam Metro Station in a desperate attempt to escape the flames.

Rescue operations underway after a fire broke out in a residential building, in New Delhi, on Wednesday. PTI

The building housed a cloth and cosmetic showroom in the basement, ground and first floors, while its owner, Rajender Kashyap, lived on the second and third floors with his family. Neighbours said the fire initially started on the first floor but spread quickly, possibly due to the presence of perfumes and other beauty products in the shop that are highly flammable.

The exact cause of the fire is yet to be ascertained.

In Madhya Pradesh's Indore, eight members of a family were killed after a fire broke out at a local businessman's three-storey house following an explosion at an Electric Vehicle (EV) charging point outside the building.

Police said a car being charged outside the house caught fire after the explosion, and the flames spread rapidly to the building. Investigators said they found clues of 10 to 11 LPG cylinders stored at the house, and explosions of some of these gas containers intensified the blaze.

In Gujarat's Ahmedabad, a fire engulfed more than 25 shops in a wholesale cloth market in the Kalupur area, though no casualties were reported, officials said.

Meanwhile, in Chandigarh, a fire broke out in a shop in Sector 22 here, one of the busiest commercial zones in the city. No casualty has yet been reported.

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India's second space port to be commissioned this year: Minister

Says third launch pad at Sriharikota to be ready by 2029-30 for first NGLV flight

KALYAN RAY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

India's second space port at Kulasekarapattinam in Tamil Nadu will be commissioned this year, and the first set of satellite launches is expected next year, Union Science Minister Jitendra Singh informed the Lok Sabha on Wednesday.

Jitendra Singh

Work has also begun on the third launch pad at Sriharikota, which will be ready by 2029-30 for the first flight of NGLV (Next Generation Launch Vehicle), the super heavyweight rocket that India is building to expand its space station after 2035.

The launch complex at Kulasekarapattinam is intended for flights of small satellite launch vehicles to ferry satellites to sun-synchronous polar orbit, mostly preferred for earth observation.

"The second launch site is expected to be commissioned in the FY 2026-27 time frame, and the SSLV launches from Kulasekarapattinam are expected by 2027-28," Singh said.

The SSLVs will allow private companies to offer on-demand satellite services for civil and military applications. For the next ten years, Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd will manufacture the SSLV.

The rockets will ferry nano, micro and mini satellites weighing up to 300 kg to sun-synchronous orbits or 500 kg to low earth orbits at an altitude of around 400 km and offer on-demand launch services, without requiring clients to wait for larger rockets to carry them as co-passengers.

Subsequent to the opening of the space sector, New Delhi is eyeing a $44 billion space market, including $11 billion export, and SSLV is likely to play a key role in capturing the market.

The commercial space market is currently dominated by the United States of America, the European Union and China. The communist country is way ahead of India as it has completed over 200 space missions since 2020, as compared to India's about two dozen.

3 missions planned

Singh said three missions each of PSLV and SSLV, mostly earth observation satellites, are planned to be launched from Sriharikota in 2026-27. In addition, two missions each of GSLV and LVM3, for communication and navigation satellites, are also planned this year. He also brushed aside reports of the Indian Space Research Organisation (Isro) building yet another launch facility near Kakinada in Andhra Pradesh.

Thane Police arrest gangster Ravi Pujari in 2017 extortion case

MUMBAI, DHNS: In a significant development, the Thane Police have arrested jailed gangster Ravi Pujari in connection with a 2017 extortion case.

Raviprakash Sulya Pujari (57) was taken into custody from Bengaluru's Parappana Agrahara Central Jail and brought to Mumbai, where police produced him before a court set up under the Maharashtra Control of Organised Crime Act (MCOCA) on Wednesday.

The Special MCOCA Court remanded him to police custody until March 27, said Thane Police Anti-Extortion Cell chief and Assistant Commissioner of Police.

Thane Police officials said the arrest could help unravel the extent of Pujari's once-expansive underworld network, which targeted businessmen, politicians, and film personalities through international extortion calls.

The case dates back to 2017, when the Kasarvadavali Police booked him under the MCOCA, invoking charges of extortion, criminal conspiracy, and links with organised crime syndicates.

Pujari had demanded a ransom of Rs 10 crore from a construction businessman in 2017. He threatened to kill the businessman if the ransom was not paid and subsequently sent his henchmen to fire at the victim's office," according to police.

SIT probing nature of Hyd rave involving ex-BRS MLA

S N V SUDHIR
HYDERABAD, DHNS

The Special Investigation Team (SIT) probing the Moinabad farmhouse drugs case is looking into whether it was a casual evening party or a high-profile real-estate settlement meeting, besides how the narcotic substances were obtained.

Rohith Reddy

The presence of Delhi-based realtor Namith Sharma, who allegedly opened fire at the police, Bengaluru-based advocate Kaushik Ravi, other local businessmen, and former BRS MLA P Rohith Reddy has prompted the SIT to explore additional angles. While Rohith is a controversial figure in Telangana politics, others are said to have invested heavily in Dubai real estate as proxies. Preliminary investigations show Namith leads a lavish lifestyle, including private-jet travel.

Notably, the same Moinabad farmhouse hosted a sting operation by the then-BRS government in the alleged MLA-poaching case, linked to BJP bigwigs.

"As of now, we understand it was a casual weekend party. But we are digging into whether there was any other motive, as one accused fired at least three times," said a senior SIT official.

The government has ordered a nine-member SIT, supervised by Future City Commissioner D Sudhir Babu, to complete the probe in three months and file a chargesheet.

The SIT recommended revoking the gun licence of Rohith's brother, Ritesh Reddy, after he and Namith allegedly fired a licensed revolver at police during the raid.

On the night of March 14, Telangana EAGLE and the Moinabad police raided Rohith's farmhouse in the Ranga Reddy district, who later emerged as the main accused in the case.

40 held after violent clashes erupt over intercaste marriage in Gujarat

SATISH JHA
AHMEDABAD, DHNS

Two communities clashed violently on Wednesday in North Gujarat's Banaskantha district, reportedly over an intercaste marriage.

Banaskantha range Inspector General (IG) Parikshita Rathod told reporters that the police had to lathi-charge and fire tear gas shells to disperse the violent mob.

She said that while the process of filing an FIR was underway, about 35-40 people had been detained at the spot.

The mob reportedly vandalised over two dozen cars and motorcycles during the clash, and blocked the highway for nearly three hours. At least four policemen sustained injuries during the clash.

The tension arose reportedly following news of a popular folk singer marrying a man from a different community. Their intercaste marriage was highly debated over social media.

Following the controversy, the woman singer shared a video message saying that she had "lost her way".

She deleted earlier videos announcing her marriage, claiming they were fake. She also posted that she was getting threat calls after announcing her marriage.

While the matter appeared to have been settled between the two communities, one community held a large gathering in the district over intercaste marriage on Wednesday evening.

During the gathering, they demanded the return of a woman.

A large group of men arrived in the Unn village, where the woman had been living with her husband and their child for over a year.

According to the police, it was at this point that the situation escalated into violence.

MISCELLANY

◆COMICS◆

Blondie

WHAT'S THAT ON THE TV?
COOKIE AND ALEXANDER FIGURED OUT HOW TO MIRROR THEIR PHONES TO THE TV
ARE THESE THEIR CHRISTMAS WISH LISTS?
THEY SURE ARE!
DO YOU THINK THEY'LL GET OUR SUBTLE HINTS?
Alexander's Wish List
Cookie's Wish List
OH YEAH!

Hagar The Horrible

HERE I AM... FIFTEEN MINUTES BEFORE MY APPOINTMENT!
THAT WASN'T NECESSARY! WE DON'T HAVE THAT POLICY HERE!
I CAN HEAR WHY!
OWW SHRIEK!
Noooo!!

Beetle Bailey

Peanuts

Marvin

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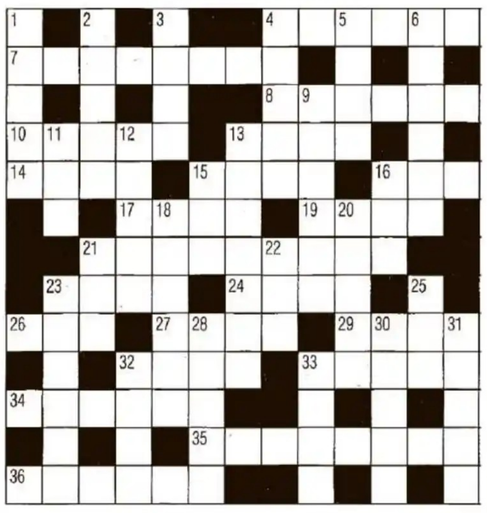

CRYPTIC

ACROSS
4 Struggles to exercise extraordinary gifts, getting out of breath (6)
7 Just the weapon to turn the tables? (8)
8 Country you can possibly sail round at last (6)
10 That elegant grace porpoises have (5)
13 Friend possessing one bucket (4)
14 She isn't so saintly as Stella (4)
15 She gives a soldier contradictory directions (4)
16 Use leverage to satisfy curiosity? (3)
17 Will he grow up a bigheaded rotter? (4)
19 A noted passion for old Ireland (4)
21 It gets noisier all the time (9)
23 Prosecutes us wrongly for shortage of dues (4)
24 No love of old chateau wine (4)
26 Choose to go to pot? (3)
27 Romeo after a woman at all times (4)
29 'Woe is me', as a girl said (4)
32 The blow that was Nero's undoing (4)
33 Possibly glib letter from an old seaman (5)
34 Special delights that drive the taster wild (6)
35 Nobody can look forward to it for long (8)
36 Wild praise for the old country (6)

DOWN
1 Rubbish many can't stomach (5)
2 The use of ale, it could be said (5)
3 Varsity man's word for murder? (4)
4 Tuck, perhaps (5)
5 A certain bitterness is good for everybody (4)
6 The householder's occupation (6)
9 Saying nothing about naval service (6)
11 Insolent Scandinavian? (3)
12 Frolicking bears may suggest this dance (5)
13 Projector needed for baseball (7)
15 Talk a lot in seeking asylum? (3)
16 One paid for knotting ropes pointlessly? (3)
18 Dislike being given the same errand twice? (6)
20 The perfect way I had brewed ale (5)
21 Reduce one's share (3)
22 Heart to heart attention (3)
23 A press release that's pretty thin? (6)
25 Carthaginian witch? (3)
28 She's in a grave state (5)
30 Sign of a confused liar clutching a bottle opener (5)
31 Demonstrated how to go between two points (5)
32 Are they rolled into the porridge? (4)
33 Robert gets out for 50 – or a duck! (4)

ACROSS
4 Marsupial (6)
7 Brolly (8)
8 People below the nobility (6)
10 Planet (5)
13 Tenant's payment (4)
14 Takes a seat (4)
15 Superlative of good (4)
16 Slope downwards (3)
17 Adjoin (4)
19 Among (4)
21 Custom (9)
23 Is obliged to (4)
24 Throw of dice (4)
26 Embrace (3)
27 Cedar, for example (4)
29 Corrosive substance (4)
32 Unfortunately (4)
33 First-rate (5)
34 Surgical knife (6)
35 Approximate calculation (8)
36 Gems (6)

DOWN
1 Hoodwinks (5)
2 Terminate prematurely (5)
3 Net (4)
4 Weekly pay (5)
5 A sweet (4)
6 Frightened (6)
9 Necessitate (6)
11 Point a weapon (3)
12 Despots (5)
13 Goes to bed (7)
15 Unopened flower (3)
16 Racket (3)
18 Combat (6)
20 A tooth (5)
21 Towboat (3)
22 Foot part (3)
23 Change in form (6)
25 That man (3)
28 Evaluates (5)
30 Cheroot, for example (5)
31 Postpone (5)
32 Continuous pain (4)
33 Bucket (4)

SOLUTIONS TO CROSSWORD 12376

CRYPTIC
ACROSS: 1, Murmur 7, Under age 8, Dies 10, Horn-E-t 11, Kipper 14, A-LL 16, Misty 17, Ruby 19, M-il-an 21, M-ode-L 22, Sit-ed 23, Miss 26, Desks 28, P-ar 29, At-ti-L-A 30, Design 31, Arcs 32, Unfairly 33, Setter.
DOWN: 1, M-other 2, Mainly 3, Rust 4, Decimal 5, Harps 6, Dec-Ry. 8, Dr.-AB 9, Eel 12, Pin 13, Ethos 15, Wides 18, Upset 19, MOT 20, LED 21, Mislaid 22, Ski 23, M-Ascot 24, Iris 25, Senior 26, Datum 27, Sta-ff 28, Per 30, Days.

EASY
ACROSS: 1, Pliant 7, Evidence 8, Mate 10, Fracas 11, Direct 14, Run 16, Riles 17, Rots 19, Moped 21, Fades 22, Ripen 23, Shop 26, Satan 28, Bee 29, Origin 30, Carrot 31, Lamb 32, Thank you 33, Banger.
DOWN: 1, Pilfer 2, Abacus 3, Tees 4, Admires 5, Kneel 6, Tents 8, Mart 9, Tan 12, Rid 13, Cello 15, Yodel 18, Oscar 19, Map 20, Pen 21, Finicky 22, Rag 23, Sermon 24, Herb 25, Patter 26, South 27, Titan 28, Baa 30, Club.

◆SU-DO-KU-6858◆

			6	7			2	
					3	7		
	9	8			1	5		
	2				5	3		
		9				2		
		1	3				5	
		2	7			6	1	
		3	9					
	4			6	2			

hard

7	8	1	5	4	2	9	6	3
5	2	3	9	6	8	1	7	4
6	9	4	1	3	7	5	2	8
4	7	2	8	5	9	6	3	1
1	5	8	6	2	3	7	4	9
3	6	9	4	7	1	2	8	5
8	3	5	7	9	6	4	1	2
9	1	6	2	8	4	3	5	7
2	4	7	3	1	5	8	9	6

SOLUTION TO 6857

To solve the puzzle: To solve a su-do-ku puzzle, every digit from1 to 9 must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows, and in each of the nine boxes.

SCRABBLE™

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N1 N1 T1 I1 I1 C3 D2
E1 N1 A1 I1 T1 R1 G2
X8 A1 R1 T1 A1 U1 S1 Triple Word Score
H4 N1 S1 P3 T1 O1 O1 Triple Word Score

RACK 1
RACK 2
RACK 3
RACK 4

PAR SCORE 125-135
by JUDD

FOUR RACK TOTAL
TIME LIMIT: 20 MIN

DIRECTIONS: Make a 2- to 7-letter word from the letters in each row. Add points of each word, using scoring directions at right. 7-letter words get 50-point bonus. "Blanks" used as any letter have no point value. All Judd's words are in the Collins English Dictionary. JUDD'S SOLUTION TOMORROW

YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

V4 E1 R1 T1 I1 G2 O1
I1 T1 C3 H4 I1 N1 G2
C3 L1 A1 M3 A1 N1 T1
M3 E1 G2 A1 B3 I1 T1

RACK 1 = 65
RACK 2 = 63
RACK 3 = 72
RACK 4 = 86
JUDD'S TOTAL 286

PAR SCORE 185-195

JUMBLE

Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

CLKIF
SUIES
VITOEM
TOBMTO

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek
My record from 16 years ago still stands. Those were the days.
No one could beat you!
WHEN THE SPRINTER TALKED ABOUT HIS WORLD RECORDS, HE WAS REMEMBERING THE ---
Get the free JUST JUMBLE app • Follow us on Twitter @PlayJumble

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: DRAFT BRAWN THEORY MORALE
Answer: She was going to take a sign language class and decided to read about it — BEFOREHAND

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HITORI-3312

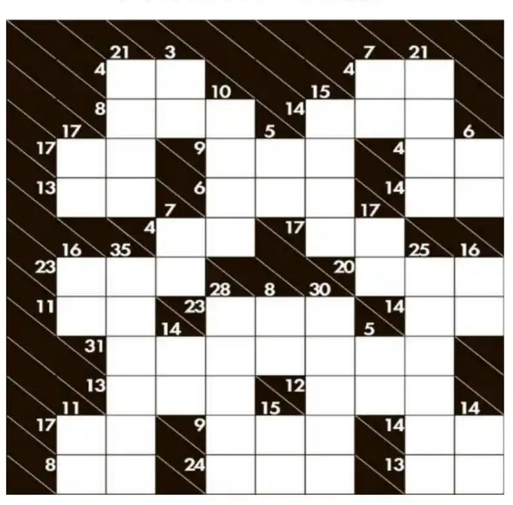
1	1	2	5	3	5	1	4
1	5	1	2	6	5	4	8
4	7	7	5	1	2	8	3
7	4	1	7	8	3	2	5
5	6	5	4	7	7	7	5
6	2	5	8	4	7	3	7
5	3	5	1	2	8	7	6
1	8	4	5	5	5	1	2

SOLUTION TO 3311

6	■	7	1	8	5	4	3
7	5	6	4	■	1	■	8
■	3	4	■	5	■	1	7
2	6	■	8	3	4	5	■
4	■	8	■	2	■	6	1
■	8	1	5	■	2	3	■
8	1	■	3	6	■	2	4
■	2	3	■	4	7	8	■

To solve the puzzle: Eliminate numbers by filling in squares so that remaining cells in that row or column do not repeat that number more than once. Filled-in cells cannot be horizontally or vertically adjacent. The un-filled cells must form a single component connected horizontally and vertically.

KAKURO- 3312



SOLUTION TO 3311

To solve the puzzle: Put a number from 1 through 9 in a cell. No zeros. A number in a cell separated by diagonal line tells the sum of numbers in consecutive cells at its right or downward. No number may appear more than once in consecutive cells.

SU DO KU X - 3860

■			9				4	6
1	■						■	
		■				5		8
	4		■		■			
				8	3			4
6			■		2	1		
		■			9	■		5
7	■						■	
		3	7				9	■

SOLUTION TO 3859

8	5	1	7	6	4	2	3	9
3	7	9	5	1	2	4	6	8
4	6	2	3	8	9	7	1	5
5	3	8	4	2	1	6	9	7
7	2	6	9	3	5	1	8	4
9	1	4	8	7	6	5	2	3
1	8	5	2	4	3	9	7	6
6	4	3	1	9	7	8	5	2
2	9	7	6	5	8	3	4	1

To solve the puzzle: The objective is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column, each 3x3 box and each shaded diagonal line contains the same number only once.

Iran was not rebuilding nuclear enrichment capacity: US intel chief

Intel assessment contradicts Trump's justification for ongoing war

WASHINGTON, AFP

US intelligence concluded on Wednesday that Iran has not been rebuilding its nuclear enrichment capacity destroyed in a June 2025 US-Israeli attack, contradicting President Donald Trump's justification for his ongoing war.

Tulsi Gabbard, a Trump ally who serves as director of national intelligence, disclosed the finding in written testimony as part of an annual threat assessment, but did not repeat it while addressing senators.

"As a result of Operation Midnight Hammer, Iran's nuclear enrichment programme was obliterated. No efforts have been made since then to rebuild its enrichment capability," Gabbard said in testimony to the Senate Intelligence Committee. Pressed by a Democratic senator on why she did not reiterate the conclusion during the hearing, Gabbard said she did not have sufficient time to read the full testimony aloud, but did not dispute the assessment.

Director of National Intelligence Tulsi Gabbard testifies before a Senate Intelligence Committee hearing on Capitol Hill in Washington DC on Wednesday. REUTERS

Trump has repeatedly said he ordered the attack on Iran alongside Israel on February 28 due to an "imminent threat".

After the June 2025 bombing, Trump said the US had completely destroyed Iran's nuclear sites. However, during the latest conflict, he has claimed Tehran was only weeks away from developing a nuclear bomb — a conclusion not shared by most observers and made despite ongoing talks on a nuclear deal.

A senior aide to Gabbard — who, as a congresswoman, had previously opposed war with Iran — resigned on Tuesday, stating there was no "imminent threat" and alleging that Trump had been misled by Israel and the media.

In her remarks to senators, Gabbard said Iran had suffered significant damage during weeks of attacks — including the killing of its longtime supreme leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei — but that the Islamic republic remained functional. The US intelligence community "assesses the regime in Iran to be intact but largely degraded due to attacks on its leadership and military capabilities", Gabbard said.

"If a hostile regime survives, it will likely begin a years-long effort to rebuild its military, missiles and UAV forces," she added, referring to unmanned aerial vehicles, or drones.

WEST ASIA CRISIS

- Trump issues 60-day waiver from century-old Jones Act shipping rules to lower costs for oil
- Kremlin says WSJ report on Russia sharing drone technology with Iran is 'fake news'
- Iran says it will take "decisive action" after its South Pars gas field was hit by Israel. South Pars is part of the world's largest natural gas field.
- Saudi Arabia says its air defences were countering ballistic missiles after loud explosions echoed over the capital Riyadh as Iran's Gulf campaign ground on.

90 ships cross Strait of Hormuz as Iran continues oil exports

HONG KONG, AP/PTI: About 90 ships, including oil tankers, have crossed the Strait of Hormuz since the onset of the war with Iran, and the country continues to export millions of barrels of oil even as the waterway has been effectively restricted, according to trade data platforms.

Many of the vessels that passed through the strait were so-called "dark" transits, evading Western government sanctions and oversight, and are likely to have ties to Iran, maritime data firm Lloyd's List Intelligence said. More recently, vessels linked to India and Pakistan have also successfully crossed the strait as governments stepped up negotiations.

As crude prices spiked above $100 a barrel, US President Donald Trump pressed allies and trade partners to send warships and reopen the strait in a bid to bring prices down.

Pak's ballistic missiles could potentially target US: Gabbard

WASHINGTON, PTI: US intelligence chief Tulsi Gabbard on Wednesday told lawmakers that Pakistan's long-range ballistic missile development could include missiles capable of targeting the US.

In testimony before the Senate Intelligence Committee, Gabbard, the Director of National Intelligence, also said that threats to the US are set to expand collectively from more than 3,000 missiles at present to more than 16,000 by 2035.

"The US secure nuclear deterrent continues to ensure safety in the homeland against strategic threats. However, Russia, China, North Korea, Iran and Pakistan have been researching and developing an array of novel, advanced or traditional missile delivery systems with nuclear and conventional payloads that put our homeland within range," Gabbard said.

The 'Annual Threat Assessment of the US Intelligence Community' presented to the Senate stated that, despite the growing proliferation of one-way attack UAVs that perform missile-like functions, China, Iran, North Korea, Pakistan and Russia will continue to prioritise advanced missiles that can threaten the US.

"However, their militaries almost certainly will plan to pair their high-end missiles with cheaper, expendable systems to stress US missile defences," it said.

According to the assessment, even if major powers refrain from conflict, many regional and smaller powers are becoming more willing to use force to pursue their interests.

"Countries such as Egypt, Israel, Pakistan, Turkey and the UAE are using a mix of lethal aid, proxy forces or their own military assets to provoke or undermine their rivals or to tilt nearby conflicts in their favour," the 34-page document said.

India, Pak ties 'remain a risk' for nuclear conflict

India and Pakistan relations remain at risk for nuclear conflict, according to the Annual Threat Assessment of the US Intelligence Community, PTI reports from Washington.

According to the 34-page report, though India and Pakistan do not seek to open conflict, conditions exist for terrorist actors to continue to create catalysts for crises. "India-Pakistan relations remain a risk for nuclear conflict given past conflicts where these two nuclear states squared off, creating the danger of escalation. The terrorist attack last year near Pahalgam demonstrated the dangers of terrorist attacks sparking conflict," the document said.

China makes energy security 'reunification' offer to Taiwan

Taipei rejects proposal, says supplies remain stable

BEIJING, REUTERS

China on Wednesday offered what it described as energy stability to Taiwan if it accepted Beijing's rule, as part of a broader campaign to persuade the island of the benefits of "reunification", which it has long rejected.

Governments around the world are scrambling for alternative energy supplies during the West Asia war and the disruption of shipping lanes through the vital Strait of Hormuz. Taiwan, which previously sourced about a third of its liquefied natural gas (LNG) from Qatar and none from China, has said it has secured alternative supplies for the coming months, including from the US, the island's main international backer. Chen Binhua, a spokesperson for China's Taiwan Affairs Office, told reporters in Beijing that "peaceful reunification" would ensure better protection of Taiwan's energy and resource security, backed by a "strong motherland".

"We are willing to provide Taiwan compatriots with stable and reliable energy and resource security, so that they may live better lives," he said, responding to a question about Taiwan's energy supplies during the West Asia war.

There was no immediate response from Taiwan's government, which rejects Beijing's sovereignty claims and insists that only the island's people can decide their future.

Speaking at a meeting of his ruling Democratic Progressive Party in Taipei on Wednesday, Taiwan President Lai Ching-te reiterated that energy supplies for this month and next are secure, and that additional US gas imports will begin from June.

3 Indian-origin men killed in Canada within a week

OTTAWA, PTI: Three Indian-origin persons were killed in Canada over the past week — two in cases of homicide and one in a group clash — even as their friends fear they may have been targeted in a racial hate crime, according to media reports.

Edmonton resident Birinder Singh, 22, was shot dead while driving on a highway south of Leduc on March 14. On March 13, Davinder Singh, 31, died in a workplace shooting in North Battleford, Saskatchewan, while Gurkirat Singh Manocha, 25, was killed in an "altercation" outside Fort St John the same day. "We just heard a gunshot, and within a minute everything changed," Birinder's friend, who was in the car with him and another friend, was quoted as saying by Global News on Tuesday.

They were travelling to the mountains via the QEII on Saturday afternoon and were a few minutes south of Leduc when a pickup truck pulled up beside their Honda Civic.

Sexual abuse allegations made against late labour icon Cesar Chavez

NEW YORK, REUTERS

Allegations of inappropriate sexual behaviour and abuse of young women or girls have emerged against the late labour organiser Cesar Chavez, and the union he co-founded will not take part in annual celebrations of him, according to statements on Tuesday.

The Cesar Chavez Foundation, which preserves memorials including his California gravesite, said the alleged "inappropriate sexual behaviour" occurred while Chavez was president of the United Farm Workers Union, which he co-founded in 1962.

The union said there were allegations that Chavez "behaved in ways that are incompatible with our organisation's values", while adding that it had no direct reports or first-hand knowledge of the claims. "Some of the reports are family issues, and not our story to tell or our place to comment on. Far more troubling are allegations involving abuse of young women or minors. Allegations that very young women or girls may have been victimised are crushing," the union said in a statement.

A mural of labour leader and activist Cesar Chavez at the Cesar E Chavez Memorial Park in San Fernando, California. AFP

Cesar Chavez Day on March 31, his birthday, was named a federal commemorative holiday by President Barack Obama in 2014, and it is a state holiday in several states, including California and Texas. The day has historically included marches, service projects and educational programmes.

Nirav Modi seeks to reopen UK extradition case

LONDON, PTI: Fugitive diamond merchant Nirav Modi's application seeking permission to reopen his extradition appeal concluded at the High Court in London, with claims that he faces a "real risk of torture" during interrogation by investigating agencies in India.

Lord Justice Jeremy Stuart-Smith and Justice Robert Jay, presiding over the appeal at the Royal Courts of Justice, reserved their judgment at the end of a day-long hearing on Tuesday.

"This case is of extreme importance, to Mr Modi and to the Indian officials who have travelled from India. We will deliver the judgment as soon as possible," Stuart-Smith said, as the hearing concluded early.

The 54-year-old businessman, wanted in India to stand trial on charges of fraud and money laundering in the estimated $2 billion Punjab National Bank loan scam, appeared via videolink from Pentonville prison. His lawyers relied heavily on the extradition case of Sanjay Bhandari — a defence consultant accused of money laundering — who was discharged from extradition bail on human rights grounds last year.

US aggression will meet impregnable resistance, says Cuban president

HAVANA, AP/PTI

Cuban President Miguel Díaz-Canel has lashed out after US President Donald Trump suggested he can do "whatever he wants" with the island and that the US could take "imminent action" against it.

Writing on the social platform X late Tuesday, Díaz-Canel said the Trump administration "publicly threatens" Cuba's government almost daily with overthrow, and that any act of aggression "will clash with an impregnable resistance."

The comments come after fresh threats by Trump and US Secretary of State Marco Rubio, who said the Cuban government's socialist economic model needs to "change dramatically."

Members of the international convoy Our America transport aid in Havana on Wednesday. AFP

While the Cuban government places heavy restrictions on the country's private sector, decades of US sanctions have crippled Cuba's economy.

The Trump administration is seeking Díaz-Canel's exit as the US continues negotiations with the Cuban government, according to a US official and a source familiar with talks between Washington and Havana. They spoke on condition of anonymity as they were not authorised to discuss sensitive matters. No details have been offered about who the administration might prefer to see in power.

WORKPLACE HEALTH POLICY

Kenya's capital experiments with giving workers menstrual leave

NAIROBI, AP/PTI

It began with a casual lunch conversation between a county governor and his cabinet ministers about a colleague's menstrual pain. The discussion led to a first in Kenya: the right for female employees to take menstrual leave.

The new policy took effect in December 2025. It grants county government employees in the capital, Nairobi, two days off every month to deal with the pain and discomfort of menstruation, to improve productivity and well-being.

Governor Johnson Sakaja said Kenya's national government has expressed interest in the policy, as have other county governors. "Your biggest asset is your staff," said Sakaja, who championed the initiative and oversees a workforce in which more than half of the 18,000 employees are women. "It starts with dignifying your own staff, for them to feel that they're respected." There has been little public objection. Critics have said the policy could discourage employers from hiring more women, but Sakaja disagreed, saying women perform better when they are supported.

Women currently lead the Nairobi county government's business and health portfolios. "A lot of labour policies were written many years ago by men," the governor said. "Women's rights are not anti-productivity. They are an input that creates productivity. It's an investment in your workforce." He said there would be no financial impact, as the county has more than one person for each role.

WORLD AT A GLANCE

Hindu devotees carry an Ogoh-ogoh, a statue symbolising an evil spirit, during a parade on the eve of Nyepi in Surabaya, Indonesia, on Wednesday. Hindus in Indonesia will celebrate the "Day of Silence" marks the new year in the Balinese Hindu calendar. AFP

Pak announces temporary pause in operation against Afghanistan

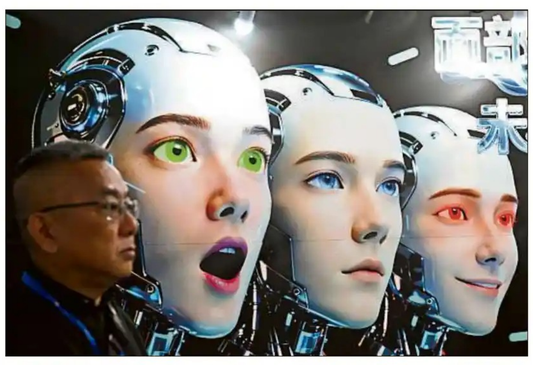
▸ Pakistan on Wednesday announced a "temporary pause" in its ongoing operation against the Afghan Taliban in view of Eid and at the request of several countries, a day after the Afghan government accused Islamabad of killing 400 people in an attack on a rehabilitation hospital in Kabul, PTI reports from Islamabad.

Information Minister Ataullah Tarar made the announcement in a post on X, hours after Pakistan carried out fresh attacks on alleged Taliban positions in the border region. "In view of the upcoming Islamic festival of Eid-ul-Fitr, upon its own initiative as well as at the request of brotherly Islamic countries — Saudi Arabia, Qatar and Turkiye — Pakistan has decided to announce a temporary pause amid the ongoing Operation Ghazab-lil-Haq," he said. Tarar said the pause would apply from midnight on March 18–19 to midnight on March 23–24.

Judge orders revival of VOA

▸ A federal judge on Tuesday ordered the Trump administration to restore the government-run Voice of America (VOA), after it had effectively been shut down a year ago, putting hundreds of employees on administrative leave back to work, AP/PTI reports from New York.

US District Court Judge Royce C. Lamberth gave the US Agency for Global Media a week to put together a plan for putting Voice of America on the air. It has been operating with a skeleton staff since President Donald Trump issued an executive order to shut it down. A week ago, Lamberth said Kari Lake, who had been Trump's choice to lead the agency, did not have the legal authority to do what she had done at Voice of America. There was no immediate comment on the decision by the agency overseeing VOA.



A man stands next to a poster showing robots mimicking human expressions at the International AI Application and Robotics Innovation Exhibition in Beijing on Wednesday. AFP

Smart gel to treat brain cancer

▸ A new generation of drug delivery vehicles could deliver chemotherapy directly to post-surgical sites for patients with a rare form of brain cancer (glioblastoma), as well as those suffering from severe inflammatory skin diseases or hard-to-treat fungal infections, thanks to a £1 million University of Sheffield research project, PTI reports from London.

The three-year project funded by the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC) and led by Professor Rob Short FTSE and Professor Nick Turner, will use Cold Atmospheric Plasma (CAP) and molecular imprinting to deliver precision treatments for glioblastoma, autoimmune disease, and invasive fungal infections. While combining CAP and drugs is a recent discovery where the plasma boosts the drug's efficacy, a significant challenge remains: how to co-locate the CAP and the drug to allow for on-demand, local delivery.

Orthodox Patriarch Ilia II dies

▸ Georgia's Patriarch Ilia II, the longtime head of the Georgian Orthodox Church and one of the country's most influential figures died on Tuesday at the age of 93, AP/PTI reports from Tbilisi.

Ilia II had been hospitalised in critical condition with internal bleeding. He assumed leadership in 1977, when Georgia was part of the Soviet Union and religious practices were restricted, and remained a dominant spiritual and public figure after the country regained independence. A new patriarch is to be elected within two months.

Actress Zendaya attends the premiere of "The Drama" at the Directors Guild of America Theater in Los Angeles on Tuesday. AFP

Rupee crashes 49 paise to record low of 92.89 against $

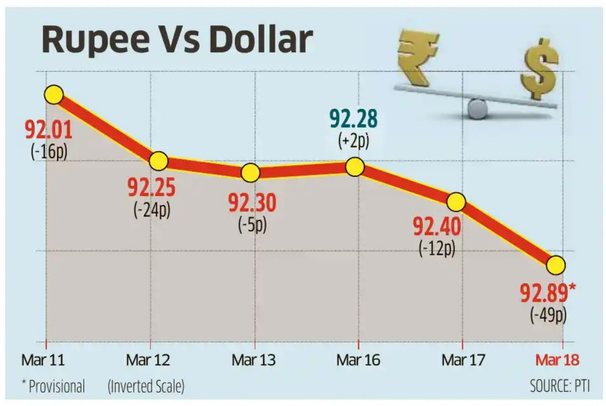
Elevated crude prices dampen sentiments

MUMBAI, PTI

The rupee slumped 49 paise to close at a record low of 92.89 against the US dollar on Wednesday, weighed down by a stronger greenback and sustained FII outflows.

Elevated crude oil prices in global markets amid intensifying conflict in West Asia further dampened sentiments, forex traders said.

At the interbank foreign exchange, the local unit opened at 92.42 against the greenback and traded in the range of 92.41-92.89, before closing at its record low of 92.89, sharply down by 49 paise from its previous close.



Earlier on Tuesday, the domestic currency hit its previous lowest intra-day level of 92.47 against the dollar, before settling at an all-time low of 92.40.

"The rupee hit a new low ahead of the major central banks meetings... as the Reserve Bank of India allowed the 92.50 level to be breached," Anil Kumar Bhansali, Head of Treasury and Executive Director, Finrex Treasury Advisors LLP, said.

Meanwhile, the dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, was trading 0.05% higher at 99.62.

Brent crude, the global oil benchmark, was trading flat at $103.4 per barrel in futures trade.

Foreign institutional investors sold equities worth Rs 2,714.35 crore on a net basis on Wednesday, according to exchange data.

Sensex, Nifty climb nearly 1%

MUMBAI, PTI: Benchmark stock indices Sensex and Nifty ended nearly 1% higher on Wednesday, extending their winning run to the third day in a row, amid a slight drop in crude prices and a firm trend in global peers.

The 30-share BSE Sensex jumped 633.29 points or 0.83% to settle at 76,704.13. During the day, it soared 929.38 points or 1.22% to 77,000.22. The 50-share NSE Nifty surged 196.65 points or 0.83% to end at 23,777.80.

From the 30-Sensex firms, Eternal, Tech Mahindra, Infosys, Mahindra & Mahindra, HCLTech, Adani Ports, TCS and Axis Bank were among major gainers. NTPC, Hindustan Unilever, Sun Pharma and HDFC Bank were some laggards.

The BSE MidCap Select index jumped 2.39% and SmallCap Select index climbed 1.59%.

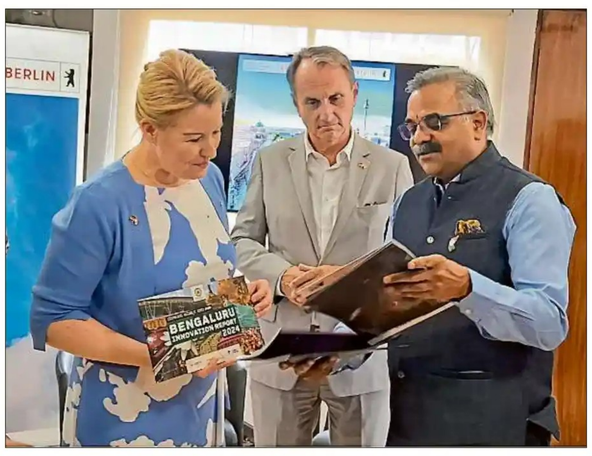
Among sectoral indices, BSE Focused IT surged 2.95%, followed by IT (2.82%), realty (2.67%), BSE MidSmall Private Banks Quality Tilt (2.48%), services (2.45%), telecommunication (2.44%) and consumer discretionary (2.08%).

A total of 3,202 stocks advanced, while 1,088 declined and 142 remained unchanged on the BSE.

Bengaluru hosts Berlin's third international office

To focus on startups, innovation, education, exports and imports

UMA KANNAN
BENGALURU, DHNS



Mayor of Berlin and Senator Franziska Giffey (left), German Consul General in Bengaluru Achim Burkart (centre), and KDEM CEO Sanjeev Kumar Gupta at the inauguration of Berlin's international office in Bengaluru on Wednesday.

German capital Berlin on Wednesday opened its third international office after New York and Beijing, in Bengaluru. The office will focus on, and support startups, innovation, education, exports and imports. "We want our presence here continuously, and this office will facilitate talent migration to Germany, and help companies that want to invest here in India. It's all about inbound, outbound and talent," Mayor of Berlin and Senator Franziska Giffey told *DH*.

The office will facilitate startups that want to set up a base in Berlin, as well as startups from the German capital that want to expand into India. The mayor also stated that Berlin is the most-important fintech city, with a vast startup ecosystem. There are 6,000 startups in Berlin, employing about 1 lakh people. There are 100 startups from India alone in that city.

The Berlin Business Office India has been officially opened at the Indo German Chamber of Commerce by Giffey from the Berlin Senate Department of Economic Affairs, Energy and Public Enterprises, accompanied by a delegation of industry and institutional leaders from Berlin.

Owing to their long-standing partnership, the Senate Department for Economic Affairs, Energy and Public Enterprises, has chosen Bengaluru for its third international office. Amrita Gandikota has been appointed as the Chief Representative of the Berlin Business Office India with the mandates of promoting foreign direct investment into Berlin, cross-border innovation exchange, and talent migration.

"Innovation and internationalisation. These two are our key factors for fostering economic growth. We have fintech, healthtech and many gaming developers in Berlin. When we look at Bengaluru, there are a lot of similarities. Here they invest in renewable energy, automotive and hydrogen technology. All these factors and fields are very important for us," Giffey said, highlighting the importance of working together. "Ten years ago, we had 2,000 Indians in Berlin; now we have 45,000 Indians," she said.

Talking about exports from Berlin to India, she said it has increased to 21%. "In 2025, our average export was 6%. And when we looked at the export increase to India, it was 21%+, and that was really amazing," she said, adding that exports include automotive and IT, among others.

Giffey further said that Berlin and Bengaluru — both are startup cities — are known for their innovation and technology. "Both the Silicon Valley of India and the Silicon Valley of Germany have come together to develop things together and take innovation forward," she added.

Russian oil bound for China is diverted as India grabs more

BLOOMBERG

A Russian oil-laden tanker that was bound for China has U-turned in the South China Sea, and is now hurrying to India after New Delhi began doubling down on imports from Moscow.

The Aqua Titan is set to arrive in New Mangalore on March 21 with its Urals cargo that it loaded from a Baltic Sea port in late January, according to ship-tracking data. The Aframax vessel originally signaled the Chinese port of Rizhao as its destination, before making an about-face in Southeast Asian waters in mid-March, days after the US gave the green light for India to temporarily increase Russian purchases.

Indian refiners snapped up a whopping 30 million barrels of Russian oil in the week that followed the concession, a move aimed to help the nation cope with lost West Asian supplies due to the war in Iran.

Since then, more countries have been allowed to resume purchases from Russia. That paves the way for further diversions from China, which has served as Moscow's importer of last resort in recent months after India reduced purchases. The return of buyers, including those in Japan and South Korea, is likely to push prices higher.

At least seven tankers carrying Russian oil have switched their destinations mid-voyage from China to India, according to Vortexa Ltd, with all of India's major refiners now in the market for the country's crude.

Separately, the Suezmax Zouzou N. is signaling India's Sikka as its next destination, with an estimated arrival date of March 25. The tanker is carrying Kazakh CPC Blend crude, according to Kpler. It had sailed from Novorossiysk on the Black Sea to the waters off Rizhao, before making its way to India.

Karnataka leads southern states in fuelling India's GDP, says report

MRITYUNJAY BOSE
MUMBAI, DHNS

Four southern states — Karnataka, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu — ranked among the top-10 contributors to India's GDP, with their share collectively increasing from 25% in FY2015, to 27% in FY2025, reflecting a steady performance as growth engines.

Karnataka led with a 7.8% average real growth rate, followed by Telangana (7.1%), Andhra Pradesh (6.9%), and Tamil Nadu (6.8%). This broad-based growth reflects the region's strong performance across manufacturing, services, and technology-led sectors, according to Rubix Data Sciences, which came out with its latest report — 'State of the States; Assessing State-level Performance: Driving India's Economic Transition'.

The report further reveals that Maharashtra continues to be the single-largest contributor to India's GDP, but its share moderated to 13% in FY25, from 15% in FY15. Among the largest states, Gujarat has emerged as one of the fastest-growing major state economies, recording an average real growth rate of 7.9% between FY15 and FY24.

Regionally, India's capex remains concentrated in the North, as large industrial and infrastructure-led states continue to anchor aggregate investment flows. Notably, three states, Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, and Gujarat, accounted for nearly 30% of the country's capex in FY25.

However, with the top-10 states accounting for almost 67% of India's total capex, a broader dispersion of public and private investment across lagging regions is essential to support balanced development. More importantly, industrial credit also remained concentrated in the West and North, with 34% share of each region. This means two-thirds of the country's total industrial credit went to these two regions.

Another notable aspect is that Gujarat, Maharashtra, and Tamil Nadu account for almost 61% of India's goods exports. Region-wise, goods exports remain highly-concentrated in the West and South, with the West maintaining a dominant share of about 48% in both FY18 and FY25.

Notably, the South's export share has risen significantly from about 26% to about 33% over the same period, reflecting its expanding manufacturing export capacity in sectors such as automobiles, electronics, ad engineering goods.

Dell workforce drops 10% in fiscal 2026

BENGALURU, REUTERS: Dell's total workforce declined by about 10%, or 11,000 employees, in fiscal 2026, it said on Monday, a sign that the AI server maker is limiting external hiring to reduce costs.

The company spent $569 million in severance payments in this period, compared with $693 million a year ago, its annual report showed.

Dell had about 97,000 employees as of January 31, down from about 108,000 employees a year ago. Its workforce had declined by about 10% in fiscal 2025.

Silicon Valley employees have grown increasingly concerned about AI disruption in recent months as 60 tech companies have laid off more than 38,000 employees this year, according to Layoffs.fyi, a website tracking sector-wide job cuts.

Reuters reported on Friday that social media giant Meta was planning a sweeping layoff that could affect 20% or more of its workforce.

Dell, whose shares have risen over 24% so far this year, said last month that it expects revenue from its key AI-optimised servers business to double in fiscal year 2027.

In February, it announced a 20% hike in its cash dividend and an additional $10 billion for its share repurchase program.

Weaver Services raises Rs 1,450 crore

BENGALURU, DHNS: Weaver Services Private Limited on Wednesday announced the completion of a two-tranche capital raise totalling Rs 1,450 crore. This is the largest dedicated capital raise in the country's affordable housing finance segment in recent years, Weaver claimed.

The capital will fund Weaver's acquisition of a 75.01% controlling stake in Centrum Housing Finance Limited (CHFL), the housing finance arm of Centrum Capital Limited.

Premji Invest, which backed Weaver in its founding round and has now increased its commitment significantly, co-led the latest Rs 950 crore raise, alongside Lightspeed Venture Partners (Lightspeed).

"There are roughly 100 million households in India that need a home and can afford one. Most of them will never get a mortgage from a traditional bank. Weaver Services was built to change that," Satrajit Bhattacharya, Promoter and Executive Vice-Chairman, Weaver Services, said.

Weaver and Morgan Stanley have also entered into definitive agreements for Weaver to acquire Morgan Stanley's remaining 24.99% stake in CHFL.

"India's housing finance market remains deeply underpenetrated, creating a large, long-duration opportunity at the intersection of technology and financial inclusion. Weaver's AI-driven underwriting stack and deep domain expertise will help make financing accessible and affordable to borrowers from all walks of life," Anuvrat Jain, Partner, Growth Investments, Lightspeed.

Axis Bank to infuse Rs 1,500 cr in NBFC arm

NEW DELHI, PTI: Axis Bank on Wednesday said it has approved the proposal to infuse Rs 1,500 crore in its NBFC arm Axis Finance Ltd (AFL) via rights issue over next one year to fund growth.

The Acquisitions, Divestments and Merger Committee of the Board of Directors of the bank at its meeting, approved the proposal to infuse Rs 1,500 crore in AFL in one or more tranches before March 31, 2027, Axis Bank said in a filing. The infusion would be subscribing to the rights issue of AFL, it said.

The proposed investment of Rs 1,500 crore by March 31, 2027, in one or more tranches as approved by the RBI vide its letter March 10, 2026, it said.

AFL's turnover for half-year ended FY26 was Rs 2,504 crore, compared to Rs 4,296 crore earned during entire FY25.

PLACEMENT CRISIS

85% engineering, 74% B-School students graduating this year remain unplaced: Survey

GYANENDRA KESHRI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

Around 85% of engineering students and 74% of business school students graduating this year remain unplaced, according to a survey by hiring platform Unstop.

Undergraduate students face the steepest challenge, with 84% unplaced and the highest offer disruption rate of 17%. The report underscores that this is not a cyclical slowdown but a structural gap, where employer demand and student access to opportunities remain deeply misaligned.

The report noted that placement remains low despite strong hiring intent among employers, with 88% of organisations actively in hiring mode. This indicates a stark disconnect at the ground level.

The 'Unstop Talent Report 2026', based on a survey conducted during January-February 2026, covering over 37,000 students and 500 HR leaders across industries, points to shifting trends in job discovery among students.

Nearly 95% of students are open to off-campus opportunities if better roles are available, signalling a move beyond traditional campus placement pipelines. At the same time, significant disparities remain across institutions.

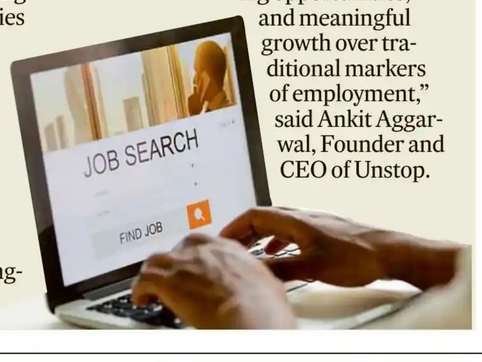
Students at campuses where over 150 companies visit annually are nearly 2.9 times more likely to secure placements, compared to campuses with fewer than 30 recruiters.

The report also underscores growing disconnect in early-career hiring. As per the survey, 78% of companies in India now run internship programmes, but only 16% convert a majority of interns into full-time roles.

Beyond employer preferences, the report highlights how GenZ professionals are redefining workplace expectations. When choosing their first job, learning opportunities emerge as the strongest motivator for GenZ, with 60-65% of respondents prioritising learning and skill development. This is followed by salary considerations at 11-13%.

The findings also show that transparent pay and clear career progression are critical expectations, with nearly 27% of candidates dropping out of hiring processes due to a lack of salary transparency.

"GenZ is entering the workforce with a very different set of expectations compared to previous generations. They value transparency, learning opportunities, and meaningful growth over traditional markers of employment," said Ankit Aggarwal, Founder and CEO of Unstop.



Hard Rock reaffirms India focus amid cafe closures

BENGALURU, DHNS: Hard Rock International on Wednesday said that while its cafes in India are set to shut down, it continues to view the country as a key market.

"India remains an important market for Hard Rock, and we sincerely thank our guests and fans for their years of patronage at our cafe locations in the country," the parent of US-headquartered Hard Rock Cafe chain hinted, in response to an email query from *DH*.

The statement comes a day after master franchisee JSM Corporation Pvt Ltd expressed "deep shock" over Hard Rock's announcement terminating its franchise agreements, a move that would result in the closure of 10 cafes operated by JSM in India. JSM had termed the decision "unilateral, illegal and misconceived," adding that its outlets would continue to operate until any binding court order directs otherwise.

In its latest response, Hard Rock reiterated that the said "closures" will not affect the Hard Rock Hotel Goa, which remains open.

Karnataka Public Work Department
(A Government of KarnatakaEnterprises) O/O Executive Engineer PWD Division, Hosapete, Dist:-Vijayanagara

No:EE/PWD/Dn/Hosapete/TND/ AE-1 /2025-26/4375 Date:-17.03.2026

Short Term E-Tender Notification

Tenders are invited by undersigned on behalf of the Governor of Karnataka, PWD Division Hosapete, Vijayanagara Dist, for the works notified in the statement below. The bid shall be in One or Two Cover system namely technical bid and financial bid through KPP Portal, following the link https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.

Sl. No	Work Indent No	Estimate Cost (Rs in Lakhs)	Sl. No	Work Indent No	Estimate Cost (Rs in Lakhs)
1	PWD/2025-26/IND0217	200.00	7	PWD/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT32937	157.88
2	PWD/2025-26/IND0219	300.00	8	PWD/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT29666	140.00
3	PWD/2025-26/IND0216	240.00	9	PWD/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT32903	200.36
4	PWD/2025-26/IND0215	260.00	10	PWD/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT32169/CALL-2	100.00
5	PWD/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT34539	105.00	11	PWD/2025-26/BD/WORK_INDENT29214	400.00
6	PWD/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT34614	100.00			

1.Quarries of Tender On: **As Per kppp Portal.** 2.Last Date of Tender Submission On: **27.03.2026 @ 16.00 Hours.**
3.Tender Opening date On: **30.03.2026 @ 10.30 Hours.** 4.Financial Bid Opening Date: **As Per kppp Portal.**
Note: If any changes either in Tender date, Retender or any other conditions , Tenderers shall be viewed in kppp Portal, No Separate Advertisement / Notification will be published.

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
DIPR/Vijayanagar/2025-26/KSMCA/RO No/600 PWD Division Hosapete, Vijayanagara District.

KARNATAKA ELECTRICITY REGULATORY COMMISSION
No. 16 C-1, Millers Tank Bed Area, Vasanthanagara, Bengaluru-560052. Phone: 080-22268677/78/79 Fax: 080-22268667
Email: kerc-ka@nic.in Website: https://kerc.karnataka.gov.in

No: KERC/DD(A)/E-Court/2024-25/1753 Date: 17.03.2026

TENDER NOTICE

Karnataka Electricity Regulatory Commission, Bengaluru - 560052 invites Electronic Bids under Competitive Bidding from eligible Bidders / Agencies to **Supply, Install, Configure and Commissioning of Hardware including IT for Digital / E-Court Project at KERC** as per the Scope of Work and the Terms & Conditions as indicated in the tender document.

The soft copies of tender documents may be downloaded and submitted through e-Procurement portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** during the period **from 17.03.2026,12.30 pm onwards to 09.04.2026 before 11.00 am.**

For further information, please contact helpdesk phone number 080-22268677/78/79-extension No. 214/215 of KERC between 10.00 AM and 6.00 PM on working days.

Sd/- Tender Inviting Authority
DIPR/CP/YC/6334/2025-26 Karnataka Electricity Regulatory Commission

KARNATAKA STATE FINANCIAL CORPORATION
(Established under the State Financial Corporation Act 1951)
BRANCH OFFICE: NO.18-21, Sector No-24, 6th Main, "G" Cross, Navanagar, Bagalkot-587 102.
Tel. Ph. No. Fax.No. 08354 -235482, Email: bgk@ksfc.co

No. KSFC/BO/BGK/921/2025-26 Date: 18-03-2026

CORRIGENDUM

Advertisement Published on 14.03.2025 Deccan Herald News Paper, Page No. 9.

1) Auction Published Date and Time: **18.02.2026** at **11:00 AM.**
2) Date and Time up to which Auction Notice Document can be downloaded: **20.03.2026** at **4:00PM.**
3) Last date and time for payment of EMD **20.03.2026** at **4:00 PM.**
4) Auction starts Date: **23.03.2026** at **11:00 AM.**
5) Auction End Date: **30.03.2026** at **4:00 PM.**
6) Date of inspection of the property: **03.03.2026** between **11:00 AM** to **2:00 PM.**

The kindly note that the Advertisement date of events should be read as follows:

Calendar of Events.
1) Auction Published Date and Time: **13.03.2026** at **11:00 AM.**
2) Date and Time up to which Auction Notice Document can be downloaded: **13.04.2026** at **4:00PM.**
3) Date of inspection of the property: **06.04.2026** between **11:00** AM to **2:00 PM.**
4) Last date and time for payment of EMD **13.04.2026** at **4:00 PM.**
5) Auction starts Date: **15.04.2026** at **11:00 AM.**
6) Auction End Date: **21.04.2026** at **4:00 PM.**

The terms and conditions of sale through e-auction are detailed on website viz, http.//eproc.karnataka.gov.in The Borrowers/Interested Persons/Personal Guarantors and Collateral Security owners are advised to bring better offer and visit the aforesaid website. All other terms and conditions are remain unaltered.

Date : 18.03.2026. Sd/-
Place : Bagalkot. Asst. General Manager
K S F C – BO : BAGALKOT

Hukamori wins main event

DELHI RESULTS

Hukamori, ridden by Arjun, won the Warrior Sprint Plate, the feature event of the Delhi races on Wednesday.

1. Storm Chaser PLate - 1600M: Poly Czar (Vipin Kalra) Dhanu Deora 1; Girl Power (S S Khadri) 2; Personal (Akash Rajput) 3; Mystic Zlatan (Angad) 4; Wb: 7-1/4, 2-1/2L, Shd. T: 1-43.87. TB: S H Abbas: Poly Czar.

2. Shivneri Plate - 1400M: Galway Bay (Sunil Kumar Verma) Angad 1; Ashwa Kohima (Lave Kumar) 2; Ashwa Frankie (Shekhawat) 3; Rinku Romeo (Arjun) 4; Wb: Shd, 2-1/4, 3/4L. T: 1-25.37. TB: S M Abbas. Fav: Rinku Romeo.

3. Mighty Run Plate - 1400M: Ashwa Changez (Ravinder Pal Singh) G.Vivek 1; Heer (Jai Parakash) 2; Insta Millionaire (Dhanu Deora) 3; Cletus (S Qureshi) 4; Wb: 1, Nk, 2-1/4L. T: 1-24.89. TB: S Nawab. Fav: Ashwa Changez.

4. Warrior Sprint Plate - 1100M: Hukamori (Sanjay Rai) Arjun 1; Big Decision (Vishal) 2; Ashwa Simran (Ankit Pal) 3; Ashwa Tokyo (Kundan Paswan) 4; Not Run: Kenaf. Wb: 2-3/4, 2, 1/2L. T: 1-03.89. TB: Ajay Sharma. Fav: Ashwa Vedha.

5. Force One Plate - 1100M: Thanks Again (Divya Chawcharia) Shivam 1; Miss Boost (Angad) 2; Ustaad Ji (Arjun) 3; Weronika (Rakesh) 4; Wb: 5, 1-3/4, 1-1/4L. T: 1-05.71. TB: Ajay Sharma. Fav: Thanks Again.

6. Iron Hoof Plate - 1100M: Big Daddy (Amarjeet Singh Narula) Vishal 1; Ticker (Faizan Khan) 2; Divit (Jai Parkash) 3; Ashwa Sultan (G Vivek) 4; Wb: 1-1/2, 1-1/4, 1-1/4L. T: 1.05.50. TB: R Kumar . Fav: Ashwa Sultan.

Bengaluru dividends

I race: Rs 12w; 19, 10p; Fc: Rs 29; Q: Rs 23; Shp: Rs 22; Thp: Rs 23; Tri: Rs 24 & 10. **II race**: Rs 19w; 11, 21, 18p; Fc: Rs 155; Q: Rs 171; Shp: Rs 53; Thp: Rs 46; Tri: Rs 840 & 474; Ex: Rs 4,783 & 2,050. **III race**: Rs 12w; 10, 21, 15p; Fc: Rs 51; Q: Rs 42; Shp: Rs 60; Thp: Rs 62; Tri: Rs 134 & 35; Ex: Rs 893 & 510. **IV race**: Rs 48w; 12, 15, 10p; Fc: Rs 534; Q: Rs 241; Shp: Rs 45; Thp: Rs; 32; Tri: Rs 624 & 324; Ex: Rs 2,915. **V race**: Rs 19w; 10, 13, 27p; Fc: Rs 84; Q: Rs 31; Shp: Rs 38; Thp: Rs 63; Tri: Rs 508 & 272; Ex: Rs 1,365 & 292. **VI race**: Rs 32w; 12, 13, 21p; Fc: Rs 136; Q: Rs 93; Shp: Rs 31; Thp: Rs 59; Tri: Rs 686 & 384; Ex: Rs 991 & 299.

Jackpot: Rs 8,629 (20). **Runner-up**: Rs 582 (127). **Treble**: Rs 1,386 (41).

Heart for Parisian Cup

KOLKATA SELECTIONS

Heart, to be ridden by Suraj Narredu, is fancied to win the Parisian Cup, the feature event to be run over a mile on Friday. First race starts at 2.15 pm.

1. Esquire Handicap - 1100M: Schwarzenegger 1, Hermes 2, Royal King 3.

2. Sunrise Song Plate - 1400M: Stormchaser 1, Tetsu 2, The Wind 3.

3. Exotica Handicap - 1200M: Cortado 1, Contessina 2, Clever Hans 3.

4. Artwork Handicap - 1600M: Cascade 1, Upper Street 2, Mrs Brando 3.

5. Parisian Cup - 1600M: Heart 1, Booster Shot 2, Aeropoli 3.

6. Audubon Handicap (Div-I) - 1200M: Trillionaire 1, Gimmler 2, Legacy 3.

7. Audubon Handicap (Div-II) - 1200M: Schoenberg 1, Dramatic 2, Marcolini 3.

Day's best: Schoenberg.

Jackpot: 3, 4, 5, 6 & 7.

I treble: 2, 3 & 4.

II treble: 5, 6 & 7.

FOOTBALL CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

Madrid complete the City job

PSG, Arsenal in quarters; dark horses Bodo/Glimt crash out

Real Madrid's Vinicius Junior celebrates after scoring against Manchester City during their Champions League game at the Etihad Stadium on Tuesday. REUTERS

PARIS, AFP

Holders Paris Saint-Germain, record 15-time winners Real Madrid and Arsenal surged into the quarterfinals of the Champions League on Tuesday, while Sporting produced a brilliant comeback in Portugal to end Bodo/Glimt's remarkable run.

PSG appear to be coming back into the form which saw them win the Champions League for the first time in their history last season, as the French club crushed Chelsea 3-0 in London to claim a comprehensive 8-2 aggregate victory in their last-16 tie.

Chelsea had been left with a mountain to climb after a late collapse in last week's first leg, and PSG quickly snuffed out any chance the English club had.

Khvicha Kvaratskhelia followed his first-leg double by opening the scoring on six minutes at Stamford Bridge, with Chelsea defender Mamadou Sarr misjudging a long ball on his Champions League debut and then being outmuscled by the Georgian who applied the finish.

Bradley Barcola fired in a brilliant second goal from an Achraf Hakimi assist, and the home fans were streaming for the exits when substitute Senny Mayulu swept in PSG's third on the night just after the hour.

PSG's fourth victory against English opposition in a two-legged knockout tie since the start of last year sets up a last-eight tie against Liverpool or Galatasaray, who meet on Wednesday at Anfield with the Turkish side leading 1-0 from the first leg.

Two-time European champions Chelsea were not the only English club to be eliminated on Tuesday, with Manchester City losing 2-1 at home to Real as they went out 5-1 on aggregate.

Real led 3-0 from the first leg in Spain, where Federico Valverde scored a hat-trick, and their qualification was never in doubt after City's Bernardo Silva was sent off on 20 minutes for stopping a goal-bound Vinicius Junior shot on the line with his arm.

Vinicius converted the penalty, and Pep Guardiola's side had too much to do, even if Erling Haaland levelled the scores on the night before half-time with his 30th goal this season.

Real replaced Thibaut Courtois with Andriy Lunin in goal at half-time, and the tie was over long before Vinicius scored again in stoppage time to seal the win on the night. Real are almost certain to face Bayern Munich in a heavyweight quarterfinal, with the Germans 6-1 up against Atalanta before Wednesday's return match.

Premier League leaders Arsenal's dream of a quadruple remains alive after they beat Bayer Leverkusen 2-0 at the Emirates Stadium for a 3-1 aggregate success.

They had needed a late penalty to draw in Germany last week, and finished the tie off in the return with goals either side of half-time from Eberechi Eze and Declan Rice.

Eze broke the deadlock with a long-range rocket late in the first half and Rice's composed finish killed off Leverkusen.

Results: Sporting: 5 (Inacio 34th, Pote 61st, Suarez 78th, Araujo 92nd, Nel 120+1) bt Bodo/Glimt: 0 after AET, Sporting win 5-3 on aggregate; Arsenal: 2 (Eze 36th, Rice 63rd) bt Bayer Leverkusen: 0, Arsenal win 3-1 on aggregate; Chelsea: 0 lt to Paris Saint-Germain: 3 (Kvaratskhelia 6th, Barcola 14th, Mayulu 62nd), PSG win 8-2 on aggregate; Manchester City: 1 (Haaland 41st) lt to Real Madrid: 2 (Vinicius Junior 22nd, 90+3), Real Madrid win 5-1 on aggregate.

Senegal stripped of AFCON title

Morocco declared champions by African federation

PARIS, AFP

Senegal said they will appeal after they were sensationally stripped of the Africa Cup of Nations title on Tuesday and the Confederation of African Football (CAF) instead declared Morocco champions, two months after their chaotic final.

Several Senegalese players controversially walked off the pitch in Rabat during the final on January 18 in protest when the hosts were awarded a penalty late in second-half stoppage time.

After Senegal's players eventually returned having been coaxed back onto the pitch by captain Sadio Mane, Morocco missed the penalty and Pape Gueye went on to score the goal in extra time that gave his team a 1-0 victory.

CAF said that having studied Morocco's appeal, "the Senegal national team is declared to have forfeited the match" and the result was "officially recorded as 3-0" in favour of Morocco.

The CAF Appeals Committee justified its decision by applying Articles 82 and 84 of the AFCON Regulations, which state that if a team "refuses to play or leaves the ground before the regular end of the match without the authorisation of the referee, it shall be considered (loser) and shall be eliminated for good from the current competition".

The articles add that the team contravening the regulations "will lose its match by 3-0".

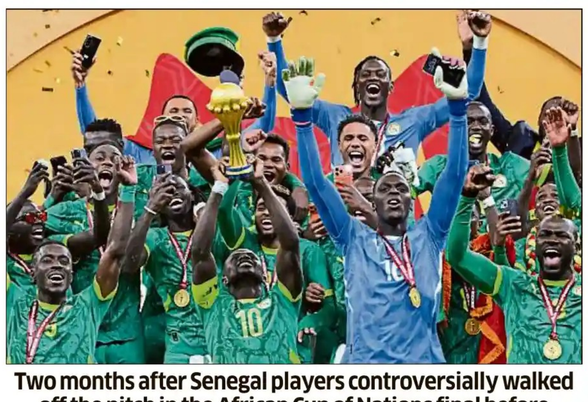
The Royal Moroccan Football Federation (FRMF) said in a statement its appeal "was never intended to contest the sporting performance of the teams participating in this competition, but solely to request the application of the competition regulations".

"The Federation reaffirms its commitment to respecting the rules, to the clarity of the competitive framework, and to the stability of African competitions," the statement added.

Senegal's football authorities said they will appeal "as soon as possible" to the Court of Arbitration for Sport.

"The Senegalese Football Federation condemns this unjust, unprecedented and unacceptable decision, which brings African football into disrepute," it said in a statement.

Minutes before the end of the match, some Senegalese supporters attempted a pitch invasion, while Senegal's players halted the game for nearly 20 minutes to protest the late penalty awarded to Morocco.



Two months after Senegal players controversially walked off the pitch in the African Cup of Nations final before winning it, CAF stripped them of the title and instead declared Morocco as champions. AFP

Joachim Loew

Loew voices concerns about safety at World Cup in US

COLOGNE (GERMANY), AP

Former Germany coach Joachim Loew has raised concerns about safety at the World Cup being hosted by the United States, Mexico and Canada.

"We had debates before the 2018 World Cup in Russia, and calls for a boycott before the 2022 World Cup in Qatar. But playing in a country that is actively at war is even more dangerous," Loew told the Cologne Express newspaper in comments published on Tuesday. "The political situation completely overshadows the tournament."

The US-and-Israeli war with Iran is ongoing, and a wave of violence followed the Mexican army's killing of cartel chief Nemesio Ruben Oseguera Cervantes, "El Mencho," last month.

Loew, who led Germany to the World Cup title in Brazil in 2014, spoke on Monday evening at an event, focused on previous World Cups, with Rainer Bonhof, who helped West Germany win the 1974 tournament, and other World Cup winners.

"I don't even know if you should play at all," Bonhof said to loud applause, Express reported.

"Given the current circumstances, for me only Canada is a neutral country," Bonhof said of the co-hosts. "I don't want to boycott any World Cup - we're too fond of football. But we really need to think about security measures, which we haven't considered yet."

SAMSUNG
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IN BRIEF

Ashco HC post massive win

▸ Led by Govindraj's four-goal effort and Naeem's hat-trick, Ashco Hockey Club posted a dominating 16-1 victory over Dhyanchand Hockey Club, Tumkur in the KSHA 'B' Division Hockey League Championship on Wednesday, reports DHNS.

During their big win, both Chengappa and Chetan netted a brace while Sridhar, Rajdeep, Apache SK, John Bosco and Sunderraj contributed a goal each.

Results: Ashco Hockey Club: 16 (Govindraj 1st, 9th, 30th, 37th, Sridhar 2nd, Naeem 4th, 17th, 47th, Chetan 15th, 28th, Rajdeep 21st, Apache SK 23rd, Chengappa 24th, 39th, John Bosco 26th, Sunderraj 49th) bt Dhyanchand Hockey Club, Tumkur: 1.

CM's Cup from March 22

▸ The second edition of the Chief Minister's Cup will be held at the Bangalore Football Stadium from March 22-April 12, which will see a total of 16 teams representing MLA constituencies from the City in action, reports DHNS.

Inter-club meet from March 29

▸ The BC Ananthasayanam memorial handicap inter-club billiards and snooker tournament will be held at the Karnataka State Billiards Association from March 29-April 11, reports DHNS.

Association or clubs affiliated to KSBA are eligible to participate and the last date for sending entries is March 26.

For details, contact IH Manudev (9535396000) or Karthik BC (9538033372).

Durgeshwar wins silver

▸ India's Durgeshwar Singh clinched the silver medal at the 6th Acropolis International Wushu Championship held in Athens, Greece, reports PTI.

Rebuilding CSK out to seek redemption

Following a shift in philosophy, five-time champs rely on youth to change fortunes

IPL 2026 9 days to go

After their record-equalling fifth title in 2023, the Chennai Super Kings have failed to progress to the playoffs.

VIGNESH BHARADWAJ
BENGALURU, DHNS

Chennai Super Kings have been one of the best-run franchises in the Indian Premier League and their results do the talking for them.

Under the guidance of head coach Stephen Fleming and skipper MS Dhoni, they have lifted five IPL trophies and two Champions League T20 titles. They have also made 12 playoffs in 16 IPL editions (suspended in 2016 & 17) and have played a record 10 finals.

CSK's philosophy of experience over youth and belief in a settled side have been their cornerstone of their success. However, in the recent past, their reputation as serial winners has taken a hit.

After their record-equalling fifth title in 2023, CSK failed to progress to the playoffs in back-to-back seasons for the very first time.

In 2025, despite using 22 players, the most they have shuffled since 2010, fortress Chepauk came crashing down as they suffered five consecutive home losses. And there were clear signs that their methods were past expiry date. The Super Kings realised it too.

Injury replacements Ayush Mhatre, Dewald Brevis and Urvil Patel showcased their promise in the limited opportunities and earned themselves a place in CSK's future plans.

Their auction strategy was also a reflection of their change in ideology, splurging Rs 14.2 crore each on youngsters Prashanth Veer and Karthik Sharma.

With Mhatre, Veer, Karthik and Brevis -- all under 23 -- expected to play a part in the campaign, the average age of CSK's first team will see a generational shift from their "Daddy's Army" tag.

Recently, the surface at the MA Chidambaram Stadium has changed from a dustbowl to a high-scoring venue and that is where CSK's strength lies: batting.

As a part of their succession plan, they signed on Sanju Samson and gave away their mainstay Ravindra Jadeja and Sam Curran to Rajastan Royals.

Samson, Player of the T20 World Cup, has been timing the ball like a dream and he could not have timed his success in international cricket better for CSK.

The 31-year-old will join hands with the reliable Ruturaj Gaikwad and Mhatre in CSK's new-look top order.

Brevis and the hard-hitting Shivam Dube will add further muscle to a strong-looking batting line-up.

Sanju Samson

The issue, however, is the bowling. The construction of the squad has come under scrutiny with a largely untested bowling attack, especially after Jadeja's move and R Ashwin's retirement.

Veer would have found a spot in most of the IPL teams this season, but at CSK, can he fill the massive shoes of Jadeja would be a million dollar question.

CSK retained the attacking Noor Ahmed and Shreyas Gopal and have also added Rahul Chahar and Akeal Hosein. But it remains to be seen how many get a look in, especially with the changed Chepauk conditions.

The major concern is the pace attack. Nathan Ellis, just 17 IPL games old, is likely to be CSK's go-to death bowler. Anshul Kamboj, Mukesh Choudhary and Khaleel Ahmed are yet to prove their mettle in all phases.

While they have overseas options in Matt Henry and Jamie Overton, they don't come with the promise of dependable commodities.

> "As the game has evolved, we might have been a little bit slow to evolve with it. Only halfway through last season we had a big shift and you saw with the players we got in as reserves, there was a shift in what we needed to do.
>
> **Stephen Fleming,** Head Coach

And finally comes the big question. Is it his last year? Some may say Dhoni is done and his physical limitations might have limited his impact, but only he knows how much he's still got to give. And if at all this is going to be the end, CSK would hope to give him a fitting farewell.

Best finishes: Champions (2010, 2011, 2018, 2021, 2023).

CSK squad: Ruturaj Gaikwad (c), Ayush Mhatre, MS Dhoni, Sanju Samson, Dewald Brevis, Urvil Patel, Shivam Dube, Jamie Overton, Ramakrishna Ghosh, Noor Ahmad, Khaleel Ahmed, Anshul Kamboj, Gurjapneet Singh, Shreyas Gopal, Mukesh Choudhary, Nathan Ellis, Akeal Hosein, Prashant Veer, Kartik Sharma, Matthew Short, Aman Khan, Sarfaraz Khan, Matt Henry, Rahul Chahar, Zak Foulkes.

Kishan to lead Sunrisers in early part of the season

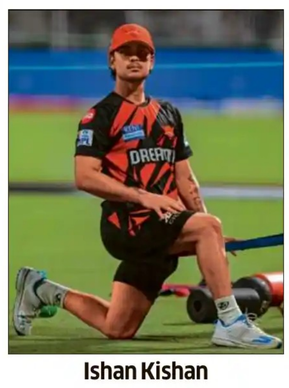
HYDERABAD, PTI: Sunrisers Hyderabad on Wednesday appointed India wicket-keeper-batter Ishan Kishan as interim captain for the early part of IPL 2026, with Abhishek Sharma as his deputy, while Pat Cummins recovers from his injury.

Cummins has been sidelined with a stress injury on his lower back, which kept him away for a major part of the last Ashes series Down Under as well as the T20 World Cup.

"Pat Cummins will miss a few games while recovering from injury. Until he recovers, Ishan Kishan will be the captain and Abhishek Sharma will be the vice-captain," the franchise said on social media.

IPL 2016 winners SRH, however, did not specify the number of matches Cummins is set to miss.

Kishan's appointment as SRH's stand-in skipper comes after a successful run across formats.



Ishan Kishan

The left-handed batter played a key role in India's title-winning campaign in the T20 World Cup, finishing as the fourth-highest run-scorer in the tournament with 317 runs in nine matches at 199.37. He averaged 80.25 and struck three half-centuries.

Three pacers in line to replace Rana at KKR

KOLKATA, PTI

Three-time champions Kolkata Knight Riders have on their radar former Chennai Super Kings pace duo Simarjeet Singh **(in pic)** and KM Asif, along with veteran Sandeep Warrier, to fill the void left by the injured Harshit Rana in the upcoming Indian Premier League.

KKR's pace resources have been hit hard by Rana's ligament strain in the right knee, sustained during India's T20 World Cup warm-up against South Africa.

The pacer has undergone surgery and is currently in rehabilitation with no fixed timeline for his return. Keeping Rana's absence in mind, the KKR think tank is exploring other options.

Simarjeet, who has played for CSK (2022, 2024) and Sunrisers Hyderabad, has 11 wickets from 14 IPL games.

A tall quick capable of hitting 140kph-plus and delivering sharp yorkers, he impressed with nine wickets in 10 matches for CSK in 2022 but struggled last season for SRH, managing two wickets in four games.

Ponting okays late arrival of Jansen

NEW DELHI, PTI: Punjab Kings head coach Ricky Ponting has approved the late arrival of Marco Jansen for IPL considering that the South African all-rounder was among the last batch of players who departed late from India following the T20 World Cup due to logistical issues.

Jansen, a key member of the PBKS unit, will join the squad on March 26. Ponting and majority of foreign players are set to link up with the team on March 21.

Afghanistan all-rounder Azmatullah Omarzai will join the team on March 23 from Kabul.

WADA delays decision over potential ban on Trump

WASHINGTON, AP: The World Anti-Doping Agency put off a decision about barring government officials from major sporting events if their countries voluntarily withhold dues, pushing a potential conflict with President Donald Trump and other US officials until at least after this summer's World Cup.

The WADA executive committee met and said it would consider the new rule in September, two months after the end of the World Cup, which the US is hosting along with Canada and Mexico.

If such a rule is adopted later this year, it would presumably go into effect before the Los Angeles Olympics in 2028.

The US hasn't paid its dues since 2023. If that continues, the new rule could place Trump and US lawmakers on a banned list for Games in their own country.

India drawn with China in Thomas and Uber Cups

Men's team will bank on Lakshya's recent good form

NEW DELHI, PTI

The Indian men's and women's teams found themselves in tough draws for the Thomas and Uber Cups respectively after being clubbed with defending champions China, the Badminton World Federation announced on Wednesday.

The 34th edition of the Thomas Cup and 31st Uber Cup are slated to be held at Horsens, Denmark from April 24-May 3.

The Indian men's team, who had made history winning its first-ever title in 2022, have been placed in Group A alongside China, Canada and Australia.

India had lost to eventual winners China in the quarterfinals of the last edition in 2024.

In the Uber Cup, the Indian women's team also find itself in Group A with reigning and 16-time champions China.

Lakshya Sen

Hosts Denmark and Ukraine complete the group.

India had bowed out in the quarterfinals in the previous edition, losing to Japan.

China boast of a formidable men's line-up with Shi Yu Qi (world No. 2) and Li Shi Feng (No. 7), besides Weng Hong Yang (No. 17) and Lu Guang Zu (No. 18).

India however, will draw confidence from Lakshya Sen's recent form as the Paris 2024 semifinalist stunned Feng en route to a runner-up finish at the All England Championships earlier this month.

India had created history in 2022 by winning their maiden Thomas Cup title in Bangkok, becoming only the sixth nation to lift the trophy after a 3-0 win over 14-time champions Indonesia in the final.

India qualified for the 2026 Thomas Cup through their position in the BWF men's team rankings following the Badminton Asia Team Championships.

The women's team also secured their Uber Cup berth via the world rankings.

A total of 16 teams -- divided into four groups of four -- will play a round robin league with each tie consisting of five matches (three singles and two doubles).

The top two teams from each group will make the quarterfinals.

Thomas Cup draw: Group A: China, India, Canada, Australia; **Group B:** Japan, Malaysia, England, Finland; **Group C:** Chinese Taipei, Denmark, Korea, Sweden; **Group D:** Indonesia, France, Thailand, Algeria. **Uber Cup draw: Group A:** China, India, Denmark, Ukraine; **Group B:** Japan, Malaysia, Turkey, South Africa; **Group C:** Chinese Taipei, Indonesia, Canada, Australia; Group D: Korea, Thailand, Bulgaria, Spain.

Naveen-Musa secure WRC3 podium

HYDERABAD, PTI: Hyderabad-based rally driver Naveen Puligilla, along with seasoned co-driver Musa Sherif, secured a podium finish in the WRC3 category at the Safari Rally Kenya 2026, the third round of the FIA World Rally Championship in Naivasha.

Competing in one of the toughest rallies in the world, the Indian duo finished third in WRC3 class, and second in the African ARC3 class.

They clocked a total time of 5 hours, 22 minutes, 17.9 seconds to be placed 24th overall in the common field.

Their effort came against extreme conditions, including punishing rocky terrain, deep ruts and unpredictable weather that tested both machine and driver to the limit.

Building on his earlier WRC3 class podium at Rally Saudi Arabia in 2025, Naveen has now demonstrated consistency at the highest level of global rallying.

Driving a Ford Fiesta Rally3 Naveen displayed remarkable composure across the 20 special stages spread over 338.34 kilometres.

Marijne charts build-up for World Cup, Asian Games

NEW DELHI, PTI: India women's hockey team chief coach Sjoerd Marijne **(in pic)** is banking on a mix of overseas tours, competitive exposure and national camps to ready the side for the World Cup and Asian games this year.

The World Cup is scheduled to be held in Belgium and the Netherlands in August, while the Asian Games will take place in Japan in September.

The Indian women's team will compete in the FIH Hockey Nations Cup in Auckland from June 15 to 21. They are also scheduled to tour the United States and Argentina, and play matches against Germany and the Netherlands.

"We have a tour to USA and Argentina, the Nations Cup in New Zealand, and practice matches in Germany. We will also play some matches in the Netherlands," Marijne said in media release.

"These scheduled games combined with our camps set us up for a very good mix of matches and training to be ready for the World Cup and Asian Games."

Indian men to face Wales in WC opener

LAUSANNE (SWITZERLAND), PTI: The Indian men's hockey team will take on Wales in their opening match at the FIH World Cup in Amstelveen, the Netherlands on August 15.

After Wales, India will face England on August 17, followed by the high-profile clash against Pakistan on August 19.

Both the FIH Men's and Women's World Cup will be held simultaneously at the Netherlands and Belgium from August 15 to 30 this year.

In the women's competition, India will be playing China in their opening match at Amstelveen on August 16.

The Indian women will then take on South Africa on Aug 18 and England on Aug 20.

Humpy still unsure of participation in Candidates

NEW DELHI, PTI: Indian Grandmaster Koneru Humpy is still undecided about competing at the prestigious Candidates Tournament in Cyprus this month but reiterated her concerns regarding the safety situation in the host country amid the West Asia conflict.

The Candidates, which will decide the challengers to the world championship crowns currently held by D Gukesh (men) and Ju Wenjun (women), is scheduled to begin on March 28.

"I know that alone, I may not be able to change anything. But regardless of whether I play in the Candidates or not, I felt it was important to express what I genuinely feel," she posted on 'X' on Wednesday.

"I'm truly grateful to everyone who has shown their support. For those who cannot understand the sensitivity of this situation, I choose to leave it at that," she added.

Earlier this week, the two-time Women's World Rapid Champion and former women's world title challenger, had said that she was hesitant to travel and was considering withdrawing.

This came after a British air base in Cyprus endured a drone attack earlier this month, raising fears that the conflict, which began with US and Israeli strikes on Iran, could seriously affect the security at the island as well.

However, FIDE CEO Emil Sutovsky brushed off the concerns, saying there is nothing even "remotely dangerous" to warrant a change of venue.

◆ ON TV ◆

FOOTBALL

Europa League (Round of 16, Leg 2): FC Midtjylland vs. Nottingham Forest, Lyon vs Celta Vigo, SC Freiburg vs Racing Genk **(all 11:15 pm)**, AS Roma vs Bologna, Aston Villa vs. Lille, FC Porto vs VfB Stuttgart, Real Betis vs Panathinaikos **(1:30 am, Friday)**. **LIVE** on **Sony Sports Network, SonyLIV.**

ISL: Sporting Club Delhi vs Jamshedpur FC **(7:30 pm)**. **LIVE** on **Sony Sports Network.**

IFL: Chanmari FC vs Shillong Lajong FC **(4 pm)**, Sreenidi Deccan FC vs Namdhari FC **(6:30 pm)**. **LIVE** on **Sony Sports Network.**

Anmol, Tanvi win; Srikanth out

ORLEANS (FRANCE), PTI: India's Kidambi Srikanth crashed out in the first round of the men's singles event while Anmol Kharb and Tanvi Sharma entered the round of 16 in women's singles event of the Orleans Masters Super Badminton tournament, here on Wednesday.

Srikanth lost 12-21, 10-21 against Magnus Johannesen of Denmark whereas Kharb recorded a compelling 21-12, 21-16 victory against Turkey's Neslihan Arin.

Tanvi defeated Supanida Katethong of Thailand after the latter conceded the match 21-18, 14-12 due to an injury.

Elsewhere, Rakshitha Ramraj lost 9-21, 15-21 in the first round against Manami Suizu of Japan.

PV Sindhu

'Can't play all your life, so education is important'

GURUGRAM, PTI: Two-time Olympic medal-winning Indian badminton ace PV Sindhu on Wednesday stressed on the need for aspiring athletes to have good education, warning that it is too "risky" to ignore academics and focus solely on a sporting career that can end with a single injury.

The former world champion made these remarks in a fireside conversation at DPS International, while speaking to educationist Devyani Jaipuria.

The Hyderabadi touched upon several aspects of her own journey to drive home the point, including the self-doubt that she battled before the 2016 Olympics after being laid low by a stress fracture of the left foot.

"I have been playing for so many years. At some point of time you have to retire, right? And that's the truth. You can't be playing sport when you're 45 or 50 or 60 at the highest level.

"And you have to accept that fact, whereas education will always be lifelong with you, and that will always stay with you," she said.

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